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HOME GAMES AND PARTIES

HOME GAMES AND PARTIES

BY VARIOUS AUTHORS, AND HERE EDITED BY

MRS. HAMILTON MOTT

WITH A CHAPTER ON LIGHT REFRESHMENTS FOR EVENING COMPANY BY

MRS. S. T. RORER

GARDEN CITY NEW YORK
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MISCELLANEOUS GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS

MISCELLANEOUS GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS

Game of the Five Senses

All the guests are seated around a large table, and the master or mistress of ceremonies informs them that their five senses are to be tested and prizes given to those who can prove theirs to be the keenest.

First comes the test of sight or observation. All are blindfolded, and a number of articles are thrown haphazard upon the table, — gloves, handkerchiefs, penwipers; anything and everything will serve the purpose. The bandages are then to be lifted for only a moment, after which the order is given to pull them over the eyes again. The table is swept clean of all the things, the bandages are removed, and each guest is provided with pencil and paper and must

write a list of the articles noticed during the momentary glimpse permitted. The one whose list is the longest receives a prize for the best sight or quickest power of observation.

Next comes the test of smell. The bandages are resumed, and in turn, vinegar, cologne, kerosene, lavender water, bay rum, orris-root, smelling salts, oranges, camphor, paregoric, and apples are presented to the noses of the company, who may write down the names without looking on, making the list more legible when the bandages are removed.

In testing the taste, allspice, raw oatmeal, horseradish, chocolate — almost anything may be offered that is not too unpalatable. It is well to have many familiar things, and only a puzzling one now and then, since pleasure, and not perplexity, is the chief object of the game.

For the hearing, different notes on the piano may be struck and the music-loving ones will readily name them correctly. The finger dipped in water and passed

around the rim of a glass makes familiar music. The ringing of a silver and of a brass bell, the tinkle of ice in a glass of ordinary water and the dull click it makes in a glass of sparkling mineral water, the sound of metal on metal, of glass on glass, and wood against wood — these and numberless others are easily provided if musical instruments are not within reach.

The sense of feeling may be tested by passing quickly from hand to hand a variety of things that cause a little surprise and so put one off guard. A glove filled with wet sand gives one an uncanny feeling if grasped unexpectedly; a harmless bit of cotton wool following after this is almost as unpleasant, and a bristling brush for cleaning lamp chimneys is a most puzzling object when held but for an instant before being claimed by one's neighbor. Even a raw potato and a handful of gelatine are puzzling objects to name, when deprived of those invaluable auxiliaries, our eyes, for all the tests are made while the company is blindfolded.

The prizes need be but the merest trifles.

A Penny for Your Thoughts

Have you ever studied a coin to see how many symbols it represents? By following the directions given below you will find that you will be the means of giving a pleasant time to one or any number of friends, as "A Penny for Your Thoughts" is a game in which both young and old may participate.

Get enough tally cards for each guest, on the top of which write, "A Penny for Your Thoughts." Attach a ribbon to each card with a small pencil at the end, and have holes put through enough pennies to string one on each tally, in order that everybody may have one to study out by himself.

The questions given below are to be written on the cards, leaving enough space for the answers. Of course, an allotted time is given in which the answers may be written, and when time is called the one having the greatest number correct is the recipient of the prize.

Questions and answers will be given below, but the one giving the party, of course,

withholds the answers until the close of the game.

1 Can you find a messenger? One cent (sent).
2 Mode of ancient punishment? Stripes.
3 Means of inflicting it? Lashes.
4 A piece of armor? Shield.
5 A devoted young man? Bow (beau).
6 A South American fruit? Date.
7 A place of worship? Temple.
8 Portion of a hill? Brow.
9 Spring flowers? Tulips.
10 Three weapons? Arrows.
11 The first American settler? Indian.
12 Emblem of victory? Laurel wreath.
13 An animal? Hair (hare).
14 Two sides of a vote? Eyes and nose (ayes and noes).
15 An emblem of royalty? Crown.
16 One way of expressing matrimony? United State.
17 Youth and old age? Youth 18—98 Old age.
18 Part of a river? Mouth.
19 Something found in a school? Pupil.
20 Part of a stove? Lid (eyelid).
21 Plenty of assurance? Cheek.
22 The cry of victory? Won (one).
23 Implements of writing? Quills.

A Cobweb Party

Imagine the rooms, halls, and stairs or a house all tangled in a web of strong twine,

the guests struggling, twisting, tripping, and weaving themselves together in their endeavors to unravel the meshes, while all are laughing at the sight, — that is a "Cobweb party."

It is startling to find familiar rooms in such a haze of gray twine. The staircases appear to be pitfalls; the dressing-rooms, traps. Every one warns every one else. When all have worked their way to the hostess, they are told to draw lots from trays of numbered cards; one tray for women, another for the men. Each is given at the same time a little stick, on which to wind the string which fate has sent. The men's strings, perhaps, start at the hall table; the women's, at the rug by the door.

There are cards at the beginnings of the strings, with numbers corresponding to those which have been drawn. After one has found the right twine, one is to wind it up, following whithersoever it leads. The library doorway may be an almost impassable web, yet, incredibly soon the balls are all wound. Many strings lead to prizes; dainty

trifles of some sort. Others have spiders at their ends, made of larch cones and wire.

A New Auction Sale

A new version of the "Auction Party" has been found to be very amusing. The invitation reads thus:—

An Auction Sale.

No check nor money need you bring;
A draught might give you cold;
We 're only doing this for fun,
The buyer here is sold.

A little bag, containing fifty beans, is given to each person as he or she enters the parlor. This is the highest amount one can bid. Each guest also receives a catalogue consisting of the following lots:

1 A Trilby Souvenir.
2 One Cent.
3 A Souvenir of Greece.
4 A Pair of Kids.
5 The Fortune-Teller.
6 The Latest Packet.
7 An Aid to Reflection
8 The Missing Link.
9 A Bunch of Dates.
10 A Pointer.
11 Love *vs.* Wealth
12 Aztec Pottery [illegible]
13 Rank and File
14 The Lost Chord.
15 On Guard.
16 Measure for Measure
17 A Dainty Mouthpiece
18 The Tie That Binds.
19 A Literary Cut.
20 A Sharper.

21 Satsuma Tray.
22 Before the Deluge.
23 Sèvres China.
24 A Good Match.
25 A Man's Delight.
26 Oliver Twist.
27 A Study in Astronomy.
28 The Family Pet.
29 Black Beauty.
30 A Diamond Pin.

The articles are to be packed in boxes, wrapped in paper, and tied with ribbons the color of the decorations, and then carefully numbered. They should be of trifling cost. The fun depends largely upon having a witty auctioneer, who can produce lively bidding. Below is given the list of the articles corresponding to the titles: —

1 Silver Heart.
2 Cologne.
3 Vaseline Box.
4 Kid Hair-Curlers.
5 White and Gold Daisy.
6 Tennis Racket.
7 Small Mirror.
8 Sleeve-Links.
9 Calendar.
10 Emery.
11 Little Scales.
12 Bowl.
13 Onion and Nail-File.
14 Piece of String.
15 Watch-Guard.
16 A Tape-Measure.
17 Silver Spoon.
18 Necktie.
19 Paper-Cutter.
20 Knife.
21 China Tray.
22 Noah's Ark.
23 China Plate.
24 Match-Box.
25 Pipe.
26 Silver-Twisted Pin.
27 Gold Crescent.
28 A Cat.
29 A Black Doll.
30 A Dime and Pin.

A Moonshine Party

Consult the almanac for a moonlight evening. Decorate your rooms with the moonflower, or if you live in the country perhaps you can get some of the herbs called moonwort, sometimes known as honesty.

Provide each one of your guests with a blank card and pencil, and give them fifteen minutes in which to record as long a list as they can make of the poems, songs, stories, and other literature in which the moon is given a prominent part. The authors' names also should be given.

At the end of the allotted time let several or all of the company be called upon to read from the cards. To the one who has the best list give an almanac or calendar in the form of a dainty booklet, with the moon's phases illustrated in gilt. Give a toy lantern for the booby prize. Some one can look over the lists and award the prizes while there is music, which should be appropriate to the occasion. The hostess may call upon one or two of her guests to relate

the story or legend which is noted on their cards, and which promises, from the subject, to be short and entertaining.

This idea may be utilized for a session of a literary society by elaborating the programme with more music and other exercises. The members should respond to the roll-call with a quotation about the moon. One member might have a biographical paper about Doctor Moon, of Brighton, who gave light to the blind by the present convenient system of raised print. There should be a short scientific talk explaining a lunar eclipse, the tides, or the phenomenon of the harvest moon. Assign this to some one who will be careful not to be too prosy, and who will illustrate it with large, plain diagrams. The last literary number should be something humorous, in which the moon shall have a prominent part.

A Flower-Guessing Evening

For this entertainment the hostess provides white cards, similar in size to dance programmes, tied with dainty ribbons, and having numbered questions written upon

them. The guests are expected to guess the answers, which are the names of flowers, both wild and cultivated. This "Flower-Guessing Game," seemingly difficult at first, after being thoroughly explained becomes deeply interesting and enjoyable. When the cards have been collected the hostess counts the correct answers on each card.

Below is a list which may serve for a party unless something original is preferred: —

1 My first wears my second on her foot. Lady's-slipper.
2 A Roman numeral. IV (Ivy).
3 The hour before my English cousin's tea. Four-o'clock.
4 Good marketings. Butter and Eggs.
5 A very gay and ferocious animal. Dandelion.
6 My first is often sought for my second. Marigold.
7 A young man's farewell to his sweetheart. "Forget-me-not."
8 Her reply to him. "Sweet William."
9 The gentler sex of the Friend persuasion. Quaker Ladies.
10 Its own doctor. Self-heal.
11 My first is as sharp as needles, my second is as soft as down. Thistledown.
12 My first is a country in Asia, my second is the name of a prominent New York family. China Aster.

13 My first is the name of a bird, my second is worn by cavalrymen. Larkspur.

14 A church official. Elder.

15 A very precise lady. Primrose.

16 A tattered songster. Ragged Robin.

17 My first is sly but cannot wear my second. Foxglove.

18 The color of a horse. Sorrel.

19 A craze in Holland in the seventeenth century. Tulip.

20 My first is an implement of war, my second is a place where money is coined. Spearmint.

21 A disrespectful name for a physician. Dock.

22 Fragrant letters. Sweet Peas.

23 My first is a white wood, my second is the name of a yellowish Rhenish wine. Hollyhock.

24 What the father said to his son in the morning. "Johnny-jump-up!"

25 My first is a facial expression of pleasure, my second a woodsman's means of livelihood. Smilax.

26 An animal of the jungle is my first, my second is the name of a tall, fair lady. Tiger Lily.

27 My first is made in a dairy, but is seldom served in my second. Buttercup.

28 My first wears my second on his head. Coxcomb.

29 A close companion. Stick-tight.

30 A fashionable evening shade for dresses. Heliotrope.

Game of Characteristics

A most interesting way in which to spend an evening is by playing "Characteristics," a game which may be made attractive to any number of people. A leader must be chosen to read aloud a list of certain "characteristics" of noted people. From these "characteristics," which must aim to be descriptive, and from their initials, the assembled company must try to discover who the celebrities are. The mode of operation of the game is as follows: Provide each player with a pencil and a card, upon one side of which is written a list of the "characteristics" of certain noted people, leaving blank spaces opposite for the names of the persons described. Immediately after the distribution of these cards the game may be explained, and the announcement made that half an hour will be given for the unravelling of the mysterious words to the left of the card. If desired, partners may be selected. The giving of prizes should be optional. The following list of "characteristics" will doubtless suggest many others to intending hostesses:

Literary

Happy Children Appear H. C. Andersen
Explains Asia Edwin Arnold
England's Bright Bard E. B. Browning
Riotous Blustering Robert Browning
Rustic Bard Robert Burns
Terrible Complainer Thomas Carlyle
Tragic Career Thomas Chatterton
Shakespeare's Truest Critic . . . S. T. Coleridge
Weird Concocter Wilkie Collins
Wofully Crazed William Cowper
Comical Delineator Charles Dickens
A Clever Doctor A. Conan Doyle
Recognized Wisdom Everywhere . R. W. Emerson
Recounting Horrors R. Haggard
Our Well-known Humorist . . . O. W Holmes
Touching Humanity Thomas Hood
Wonderfully Interesting . . . Washington Irving
Charming Levity Charles Lamb
Truthful Negro Portraits . . . Thomas N. Page
Wonderful Historic Person . . . W. H. Prescott
Winsome Stories Walter Scott
Wonderful Sapience . . . William Shakespeare
Perished by Sea P. B. Shelley
Her Books Sell H. B. Stowe
Rebuked Society Robert Southey
Beguiling Traveller Bayard Taylor
Arthur's Troubadour A. Tennyson
What Magical Talent W. M. Thackeray
Makes Travesties Mark Twain

Charming, Delightful Writer . . . C. D. Warner
Neat Parlor Writer N. P. Willis
Wrote Wondrously . . . William Wordsworth

Historical

Naturally Belligerent . . . Napoleon Bonaparte
Came Confidently Christopher Columbus
Opposed Cavaliers Oliver Cromwell
Ever Elegant Edward Everett
Brilliancy's Forerunner . . . Benjamin Franklin
Protested Hotly. Patrick Henry
Receivers' Earnest Love Robert E. Lee
Always Loyal Abraham Lincoln
Marvellous Light Martin Luther
War's Triumphant Soldier . . . W. T. Sherman
Declamatory Weightiness . . . Daniel Webster
Noted Words Noah Webster
Great Warrior George Washington

Miscellaneous

Perfectly Tremendous Boaster . . P. T. Barnum
Pride (of) Boston Phillips Brooks
Best Broadcloth Beau Brummel
Famed for Charms . . . Frances F. Cleveland
Well-Earned Glory William E. Gladstone
Thoroughly Honest Thomas Hughes
Rabid Iconoclast Robert Ingersoll
Hamlet's Interpreter Henry Irving
Feminine Nobility Florence Nightingale
Prancing Roughly Paul Revere
He Made Search H. M. Stanley

Progressive Conversation

For a Progressive Conversation party cards are provided with topics or questions for each lady. When the bell rings, each man finds his partner and converses on the topic assigned till the time is up, when he passes to the lady above; and so on, till he has conversed with every lady. The balloting then begins, the ladies voting for the man they found most entertaining, the men for the lady. The largest number of votes call for the first prize.

A Pop-Corn Party

Much of the success of a pop-corn party depends upon having everything as informal as possible. Instead of using fine stationery for the invitations, and indulging in the conventional polite phrases, take corn-colored paper and ask your friends "To meet Mr. C. Cobb." Here is a description of a delightful pop-corn party, which shows how to have a good time: —

"All the girls were dressed in bright woollen gowns, and the men in their

business suits. In the dressing-room each girl was presented with an addition to her toilette in the shape of a necklace of pop-corn sewed upon satin ribbon, each necklace having a distinct color. Upon entering the parlors we found all the men adorned with watch-chains to correspond. We were speedily invited into the dining-room, where a bright open fire was burning, and were told that this time the girls were to do 'the popping.' And they did, while ghost stories were told, songs were sung, and conundrums given and guessed. As the corn was popped it was given to the hostess, who, in a corn-colored crépon gown, presently invited all the men to take partners. This they did by selecting the girls whose necklaces in color matched their watch-chains.

"And then we sat down to a veritable feast of corn at a table which had been entirely arranged in corn-color, and upon which were served salted, sugared, and buttered pop-corn, pop-corn balls, lemon jelly-cake, lemon sponge-cake, lemonade hot and cold, lemon ice cream, lemon

water ice and lemon jelly. After our delicious supper we returned to the parlor and were handed cards with pencils attached. Our hostess then rang a bell and called order, and when order reigned she requested us to write eight nouns beginning with corn, and the name of a general beginning in the same way. In ten minutes she rang the bell again and collected the lists. The best one read, 'Cornflower, cornstarch, cornice, cornet, cornea, corner, corncake, cornucopia, General Cornwallis.' The maker of this list received a pretty corn-colored paper lamp-shade as a prize; and the girl who only had two words on her list received the booby prize — a corn-colored paper dunce-cap, which she was compelled to wear the rest of the evening."

A Peanut Hunt

If written invitations are issued for a peanut party, have two peanut shells painted in water colors on one corner of the paper.

The hostess provides herself with a quantity of peanuts, and conceals them in every imaginable spot in the rooms where she is

to entertain her guests, — behind pictures, under mats, among the flowers, everywhere there are peanuts. After the guests have all arrived, a small bag is handed to each one, and the company are told that whoever first fills his or her bag with peanuts wins the prize of the evening.

Then begins the merry hunting — here, there, and everywhere — for peanuts. A pretty way is to have the bags made of silk, with a ribbon or cord and tassel at the top, and a fanciful design of peanuts on one side; they are then preserved as dainty souvenirs.

A Bundle Party

For those who like guessing games a bundle party offers a chance for fun in plenty. After all the guests have arrived they are taken to a room where, reposing upon a table, they find a collection of packages of various shapes and many sizes, each one distinctly numbered. To each guest there is handed a slip of blank paper and a lead pencil; then the hostess makes the following explanation: "There are thirty

bundles upon this table; each bundle is numbered. Each one of you may handle any or all of the bundles as long and as much as you please, provided that you do not open them nor tear the wrappers. When you have used your sense of touch to your entire satisfaction you must write down the name of the article that you think is in the bundle, and number your guess as the bundle is numbered. Should you find a package, on the contents of which you cannot decide definitely, put its number on your list and make a dash after it. When you have examined all the bundles and recorded your guesses I will open each package and hold the contents up to your view. You will then consult your lists, and those who have hit on the article will hold up their right hands, and I will mark opposite each girl's name the numbers that she guesses correctly. To the one whose name has the most numbers attached will be given a prize."

When all the bundles have been examined and the guesses recorded, the hostess takes up a bundle, announces its number, and

after giving time to examine the lists, she opens the package and holds its contents up to view. When she has credited the number to those who have raised their right hands she asks each unsuccessful guesser to read out the name of the article assigned to that particular number. Suppose that the first bundle contains a peacock feather; only a few persons will be likely to hit on the right article, while the other guesses may be very wide of the mark, so that the reading will afford much amusement.

It is possible to vary this "Bundle Party" by making of it an auction sale instead of a guessing contest, and this entertainment may prove quite as enjoyable as those already described. To do this it is necessary to appoint one of the elders of the company auctioneer, and it is well in doing this to select a person who has ready wit and is an easy speaker. Provide the auctioneer with a mallet, and place on a wooden table in front of him an assortment of bundles and parcels of varying sizes and shapes. To each guest must be given, on arrival, a small bag, box, or basket con-

taining either fifty or one hundred beans. If there are many parcels and a limited number of guests it will be better to give each guest one hundred beans, as they will then have plenty of currency for their purchases. The only point to be especially observed is that each guest must receive the same number of beans, so that there may be no advantage given any individual. The auctioneer, after the guesses have been registered and before the parcels have been opened, will hold the packages up for bids from the assembled guests, the package in each case being awarded to the highest bidder. The opening of the parcels later will add greatly to the merriment and amusement of the guests, who will then discover how wise or how foolish their bids have been.

A Good Geography Game

Every bright boy or girl likes a game that exercises the wits. Here is a capital one for a rainy day or a long evening: —

A leader is chosen, and every player has pencil and paper. The leader then selects

a word, "Republican," for instance, and each player writes all the geographical names he can think of, beginning with *R*, the first letter of the word.

Three minutes is usually allowed for each letter, though a longer or shorter time may be fixed, if desired. When the leader calls "Time," every one should stop writing.

The leader then reads his column of names, and as he calls a word, all others who have it say "Yes," drawing a line through it. If all have the word, that is the end of it; but in case some have failed to write it, then the fortunate ones who have it, write after the word the number of those who did not. When the leader has finished, the player at his left reads his remaining words, writing numbers after them as before. Of course, he will get at least one on every word, since the leader failed to have any of them. If the next player has any words left, he reads them, getting at least two on each; the next then reads his, and so on through the company. Then each player adds the numbers at the right of his words, setting down the total.

Now, all being ready for the second letter, the leader calls, "Begin," and all proceed to write words which commenced with *E*. When the leader calls "Time," the one at his left begins to read, counting just as before. Each letter in the word is treated in the same way, and when the last is finished, each player adds his points, and the one who has the most wins the game. The company may be divided, so that half shall combine against the other half. Then, instead of an individual, it is a side that wins.

The game will revive geographical knowledge, for whenever a name is challenged, the writer must tell something about it, and in what part of the world it may be found. One of the chief advantages of the game is that it may be played by any number — the more, the merrier.

How to Give a Calico Party

A big barn makes the best setting for a Calico party, sheaves of grain and pyramids of pumpkins decking the floors, stalks of corn hanging from the rafters, and

weird Jack-o'-lanterns grinning in dark corners.

Cut and fold the calico the size of note paper, and have the invitations printed on the face of the sheet. Fashion the envelopes of the same calico stiffened. Calico may include lawns, ginghams, sateens, and curtain calico, and the bizarre air of the costumes lifts the party out of the ordinary.

In various parts of this book there will be found games suited to just such occasions.

A Heart Party

The old-time donkey party has suggested a new form of evening entertainment, namely, a "Heart Party." A large heart made of red flannel cloth is pinned upon a sheet hung from a door. In the centre of the heart there is sewed a small circle of white Arrows of white cloth with pins placed therein are given to the guests, each arrow bearing a number, the number corresponding to a list whereon the names and numbers of the guests are placed. The point of the game, of course,

is to see which person, when blindfolded, will pin the arrow nearest to the central spot of white. Four prizes may be offered — one each for the lady and gentleman coming the nearest to the centre, and one each to those coming the farthest from the bull's-eye. Appropriate prizes would be a heart-shaped pincushion, a heart-shaped photograph frame, a silver heart-shaped pin, and a heart-shaped box of bonbons. A good booby prize would be a Brownie holding a tiny heart, with an arrow inscribed "Try, try again."

Who Is It?

Photographs of famous people, labelled with names that do not belong to them, may be handed about among a company of persons for correction. What seems at first glance to be a simple act of adjustment, calls for considerable study and a good memory. The portraits of Wagner, Beethoven, Paderewski, Rubinstein, Ole Bull, Whittier, Queen Victoria, Emperor William of Germany, Gladstone, Shakespeare, Milton, Dickens, Tennyson, Scott,

Burns, Longfellow, Washington, Lafayette, Napoleon, and others should be chosen.

A Valentine Party

Cupid's target, an oracle of fortune to be tested at a valentine party, should be set up either in a spacious room, from which all the furniture has been removed, or in a cleared barn, if the festivities are held in the country. The wooden frame should be heart-shaped, and the centre of white muslin. It should be painted with a three-inch border of green; a second three-inch row of black: a third of yellow; a fourth blue; fifth red. These simulate a succession of hearts, one inside the other. A less expensive frame may be made of card, or heavy pulp board, covered with cheap white cloth, and then painted. Each arrow should be decorated with a bit of colored ribbon, a different color for each, and the bows decorated either to match or of a contrasting color.

As the guests arrive the ladies choose their arrows, and the gentlemen bows; the bows and arrows which match desig-

nate the partners for the evening. There is always a charm in the expectation of a chance partner, and each guest accepts his or her fate gracefully.

The room in which the target is set up should be lighted gayly with Chinese lanterns, and the target fastened securely in place at one end of the room. When ready to begin, the lanterns are lit, and the merry fortune-seekers proceed, equipped with bows and arrows, to learn their fate, each guest having been provided with a fate-card of two rhymed lines prepared by the hostess. These cards are carefully consulted after each shot. The cards, with their couplets of prophecy, read as follows: —

Love and riches wait. I ween,
Him or her who hits the green.

Arrow flits the yellow by:
You 'll be married ere you die.

Should your arrow pierce the blue,
Love is on the wing for you.

Loveless, weeping little maid,
If her arrow pierces red.

She who passes one and all,
Lovers many at her call.

He who passes one and all,
His chance to wed is very small.

When the shooting is over, the guests are invited into another room, where a little page presides over Saint Valentine's magic wheel, and gifts dispatched from Fun-land serve to minister balm to disappointed archers.

Saint Valentine's wheel must be light in weight, of medium size, and balanced on a pole through the hub, so that it will turn readily. The tire and the spoke should be wound with ribbon. A variety of color adds to its enchantment. Should economy be a consideration, strips of cheesecloth will do. Two little boys, one on each side of the pole upon which the wheel revolves, guard it. They may be dressed in blue and silver gauze, with girdles of roses, gilt bows and arrows, and silver wings. Saint Valentine presides at the wheel, dressed as King of Hearts, in a red coat, red and white striped stockings, blue knee-breeches, cut in points

and covered with hearts, a large satin collar in the shape of two hearts, a red cap, hanging sleeves, and sceptre all covered with hearts. On each spoke of the wheel are small cards numbered. As Saint Valentine revolves the wheel swiftly, each guest in turn seizes a card, souvenirs having been prepared corresponding in number to the cards. The favors should be as much alike as possible, and of course of a character that will be reminiscent of Saint Valentine.

After the souvenirs have been distributed the refreshments should be served. They may be either simple or elaborate, but the color scheme of both table and refreshments should be rose-colored and white. The sandwiches may be cut heart-shaped, and the cakes iced in rose-color or white. Kisses, lady-fingers tied together with rose-colored ribbons, and rose-colored bonbons in heart-shaped boxes, should be everywhere.

Impersonations

A device not too much used to prove a novelty in most homes, is the designating

of each guest as he arrives with the name of some noted character. A card with the name upon it is pinned on the shoulder; this is referred to by the others in conversation, but is not examined by the wearer. From the remarks addressed to him he is to guess whether he is personating Buffalo Bill, Mr. Cleveland, Chauncey M. Depew, or possibly some local celebrity, being expected to wear the card until he is successful.

Book Reviewing

An entertaining game, called "Book Reviewing," is similar to the old-fashioned game of "Consequences," and is played as follows: Each guest writes an author's name on a slip of paper, which is folded over and passed to the one who sits next to her, who writes the title of a book; the paper is again folded and passed to another, who writes a criticism upon it. Of course, as many slips are made use of as there are participants in the game. When these papers are read the jumble of authors, books, and reviews is most amusing.

A few actual samples are here given: Author, "Samuel Johnson;" book, "Alice in Wonderland;" criticism, "Never since the days when Homer hawked his 'Iliad' through the streets of Greece has any literary work so carried the world by storm. We sincerely doubt if in the ages to come anything will exceed it." Author, "Rider Haggard;" book, "Dictionary;" criticism, "The tone is weak, the characters impossible, and the plot exceedingly unnatural. There is really hardly a readable page in the whole book."

Buzz

A LIVELY game is "Buzz!" The guests are seated around the dining-table. The one at the head of the table begins by saying "One," the next "Two," and so on; only the seventh person and every multiple of seven must remember to say "Buzz" instead; if they fail to do this they drop out of the ring, and the next begins with "One" again. The sport of the game is to remember "seven" or the multiple, viz.: fourteen, twenty-one, twenty-eight, thirty-

five, and so on. The one who holds out the longest is to receive a prize; the first to fall out of the ring is awarded the booby prize.

Personally Conducted Excursions

Here is an entertainment requiring rather unusual preparations; still, the novelty of the affair is worth the trouble and expense. Have your invitations worded thus: —

Dear Sir: [or, Dear Madam:]

I am making up a party for a winter tour in the United States. It will be very select, and I should like the pleasure of numbering you among the tourists. It will be perfectly safe for you to come alone, as I shall have an unlimited number of chaperons on hand.

I have had large experience in all modern modes of travel, having frequently gone on extended trips on the trolley lines. Being a linguist of no mean ability I can act as interpreter to any form of the "United States" language.

The expense will be slight.

The porter has agreed to be paid only in his own coin, and has magnanimously offered to give as good as the guests may send.

The cars are well lighted, evenly heated by furnace, and built for use.

The train will start from my home on ——— ——, at 8:30 P. M.

Meals are included.

The itinerary includes stops at most of the leading cities and points of interest in the United States.

The accompanying coupon will entitle you to a ticket and all the privileges of the party. Present it at the ticket-office on the evening of the start.

Yours respectfully,

Guests are supposed to go to such a party in travelling costumes. Upon entering the hall they find a screened corner, with the conventional ticket-window where tickets are issued. The hostess stands near by, ready to hand the wraps over to the baggage-master. The parlor has been transformed into a waiting-room, and there is a gatekeeper to restrain the passengers from entering the sitting-room, or parlor-car. The tickets are of the regulation length, and printed on green paper, as follows:

FUNVILLE, FROLICTOWN, AND FEATHERBRAIN RAILWAY

SPECIAL EXCURSION TICKET

RULES AND CONDITIONS

This ticket is not transferable, reversible, nor salable. It must be signed by the person to whom it is assigned.

The company will not be responsible for cattle killed by the carelessness of passengers who throw sandwiches out of the window.

Doctors are not provided, but if you have the grip it can be checked by the baggage-master.

The porter is a pirate who deserves no quarter.

If the ventilation is not sufficient tell your wife.

You are prohibited in this State from standing on the platform.

The conductor will not punch this ticket.

The stations at which this train stops are:

1 Where all have bean. [Boston.]

2 The greatest engineering feat. [Wheeling.]

3 An improvement on the ship which grounded on Mount Ararat [Newark.]

4 A military defence, and a Paris dressmaker. [Fort Worth]

5 A city whose end and aim is "go." [Chicago.]

6 Our board of city fathers, also a precipice. [Council Bluffs.]

7 An accident which results in a ducking. [Fall River.]

8 An exclamation, an appeal to maternity, a laugh. [Omaha.]

9 An opera encore. [Sing Sing.]

10 Named for the King of France who reigned from 1226 to 1270 A. D. [Louisville]

11 A deceased farmer who was twice dictator of Rome. [Cincinnati.]

12 Named for an ancient city whose downfall after a long siege avenged the abduction of a woman. [Troy.]

13 A place for the lingerers. [Tarrytown.]

14 Named for the father of our country. [Washington.]

15 A high place, and what all children love. [Mount Desert.]

16 A superlative, and rushing waters. [Grand Rapids.]

17 A girl's nickname, and relations by blood or marriage. [Nankin.]

18 A purely American product, and a continuous structure. [Cornwall.]

19 A girl's name, and a Roman garment. [Saratoga.]

Attached to each ticket there is a lead pencil, and blank spaces are left in which answers are to be written. Of course, in the original tickets the answers are not given. Promptly at eight-thirty the passengers, who have by that time assembled, are allowed to pass through the gate into the sitting-room, and take seats in the parlor-car; then when all are seated a whistle is blown, the conductor calls "All aboard," a bell is rung, and the party is supposed to have started.

At the proper time the conductor calls out that the train has stopped, and the company repair to the parlor, to listen to

music while the train crew determine which passenger has guessed the greatest number of places on the route; the reward being a miniature travelling-bag. Then refreshments are served.

Misquoted Quotations

Misquoted quotations afford mental occupation for lovers of poetry. Write out on slips of paper certain much-read verses from "Maud Muller," "The Psalm of Life," Tennyson's "Maud," Shakespeare's plays, Dickens's or Thackeray's novels, etc. Change a few words, or even a whole line, and see who can recall exactly the original language.

Who Painted It?

A congenial employment for people whose thoughts turn to art is to recall in a stated time the names and painters of familiar masterpieces. Copies of these, numbered (prints or cheap photographs answer every purpose), should be displayed about the room as if it were an art exhibition. Cards and pencils should be pro-

vided for noting guesses. Millet's "Angelus," Munkacsy's "Christ Before Pilate," Raphael's "Sistine Madonna," Murillo's "Immaculate Conception," Rubens's "Descent from the Cross," Lepage's "Joan of Arc," Paul Potter's "Bull," Millais' "Princes in the Tower," may be included in a list of famous works.

Telegrams

The game of "Telegrams" may be played by asking each one of your guests, in turn, to suggest the initial letters that shall compose the words of the message. Here is an example, one made use of at an impromptu gathering. The letters furnished were C. T. M. M. W. B. H. C. P. T. S. T. D., and the message one person made from them was: "Come Thanksgiving morning. Mother will be here. Come prepared to stay to dinner."

Crambo

A new version of the old game of "Crambo," which Webster defines as a

word given, to which another finds a rhyme, is the following: One writes a question, folds the paper over, as in the game of "Book Reviewing," and passes it on. The next adds a noun, folds again, and again passes it to his neighbor, who must write a rhyme in which the question is answered, always weaving in the noun.

An example given at one party will suffice to illustrate:—

The question was: "Where are you going, my pretty maid?"

The noun written after the first folding was "Gumdrops," and here is the rhyme:

"A maiden chanced on a sunny day
To cross the field where I raked the hay,
Her cheeks were rosy, her hair was brown
And she looked a queen in her russet gown,—
'Where are you going?' I asked the lass.
'To buy some gumdrops, please let me pass.'
So I stood aside and she went her way,
But I often think of that sunny day,
And that queenly girl with her hair of brown,
Who charmed me so in her russet gown."

The author of the above never had claimed to be a rhymester.

A Literary Salad

A pretty use for quotations is to twist pieces of different shades of green tissue paper into the shape of lettuce leaves, and place them in a salad bowl — having previously pasted upon each a short quotation, written distinctly on white paper — and pass them about as a salad, inviting each partaker thereof to guess the name of the author whose quotation adorns the lettuce leaf which he has chosen.

A Book-Title Hunt

At "A Book-Title Hunt" the guests will find the parlor filled with the queerest collection of miscellaneous articles that ever was seen in so dainty a room. Tables, the mantel, the top of the piano, the window curtains and portières — every available spot may bear some article that certainly does not belong there; upon the walls there may appear photographs, engravings, and cards with parts of magazine advertisements pasted upon them, apparently

arranged haphazard, with no regard to harmony of subject or color.

It will be bewildering at first, but that there is method in this apparent madness will be shown by the fact that some of the articles about the room are placed in little groups, while others stand by themselves, each group or separate article bearing a number, as does each of the pictures upon the walls. Each guest is furnished with a pencil and two or three sheets of paper held together at the top by a silken thread. Down the left-hand side of each sheet are the figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, etc., covering the number of titles that are to be hunted for.

When all the guests have arrived the hostess strikes a bell, and the "hunt" begins. But where are the books? Looking on one of the tables for some favorite volume one may perhaps see a slender crystal vase holding a flower of saffron hue, while near by is carelessly laid a string of tiny brass bells. Pinned to a curtain there may be a half-length portrait of General Grant.

A few moments suffice for every one to catch the spirit of the game, and merry groups are soon wandering from table to mantel, thence to another table, stopping on the way to examine the mystic symbols on the walls. Every now and then a little scream of delight will indicate that a fair hunter has solved some mystery.

At one party a puzzled group collected about a card on the mantel on which were pasted the tails of a horse, a dog, and a bird, all cut from advertisements; not quite so baffling a problem was a child's toy, a small gray cottage, to which some ingenious hand had contrived to add seven artificial points. The top of the piano had upon it the most incongruous collection of things possible: a china plate, upon which were placed some small pieces of bright coal; the crown of an old straw hat; a pile of ragged oak leaves; a doll dressed in red and gray, and a tiny pastry-board, upon which rested two small bits of well-kneaded dough.

A limit of time had been fixed before the game began, and when it had expired,

one of the gentlemen of the party called out from a complete list, furnished by the hostess, first the number, and then the title of the book belonging to it. The guests checked off the right titles they had discovered upon their lists, and upon comparing notes the one who had guessed the largest number of titles correctly received the first prize, a handsome copy of "Unfamiliar Japan," while the booby — the lowest on the list — became the proud possessor of "Mother Goose," bound in linen.

One list of guesses bore these names:

1 "A Yellow Aster."
2 "The Bells."
3 "Half a Hero."
4 "Terminations."
5 "House of the Seven Gables."
6 "Black Diamonds."
7 "The Crown of Straw."
8 "Torn Leaves."
9 "In Scarlet and Grey."
10 "Dodo."

The game may be played like progressive euchre by dividing the company into groups of four or six, having a certain number of articles on each table, and allowing only a

certain limit of time before group number one moves on to table number two, stopping when each group has visited every table.

Rainy-Day Diversions

It was the mother of quite a large family who declared, "I can bring up a whole family with a pair of scissors and a mucilage bottle," and she was not very far from right. Bright days, as a rule, take care of themselves; there are so many pleasant sports to be enjoyed out of doors. But the tug-of-war comes with rainy weather. Then something new and interesting must be planned to occupy the children's time and attention, and for boys and girls of varying ages there are many varieties of pleasant and instructive occupations to be enjoyed with scissors and paste.

Little girls from eight to twelve may give a "Reception to Royalty," by collecting pictures of kings and queens, emperors and empresses, princes and princesses of various royal courts. While cutting

them out carefully, and preparing them so that they may stand alone, mamma may tell them the story of their royal lives and something about the country and people where they live. The "standers" are made by pasting a strip of moderately thick paper or pasteboard an inch wide, perhaps, full length at the back of the picture. Let the pasteboard broaden at the heel; cut it an inch beyond the toe. When partly dry, bend at the heel to form a right angle. The figures will then stand quite firmly, and may be moved from place to place.

When a sufficient number of people are made ready for the reception, then the blue-room furniture at the White House (stationers sell these pictures at a penny or two a sheet) may be cut out in the same way, and, with the necessary formalities of presentation, the reception may go on. Little girls who have a taste for millinery, dress-making, or doll-dressing may cut out all sorts of hats, bonnets, and garments, and arrange for a spring or fall opening.

Boys of the same age may purchase an endless variety of soldiers. Army and navy officers, artillery companies, army wagons, ambulances, etc., also pictures of famous war generals and their staff officers; in fact, a complete set of classified pictures may be secured for representing an army. These, cut out carefully and strengthened with "standers," as described above, furnish material for many a well-fought battle. The instruments of slaughter, a couple of bean-blowers manipulated by two small boys. Brigadier-generals both valorous and famous, fallen heroes carried off the field in ambulances, horses and men falling on every side, the quick return to life of entire companies, and the rapid "setting up" preparatory to a new encounter, are all interesting to small boys. Fences, trees, rocks, hills, horses, tents, and the pleasant bivouac scene may all be played by preparing the required pictures. Boys who have a taste for animals and birds may prepare extensive "Zoos."

RING GAMES AND FROLICS

RING GAMES AND FROLICS

Children never tire of ring games. They like the simple ones best — those that do not tax the memory to any great extent. They prefer something with a catching swing in the rhythm, carrying the same words through many verses, with just enough verbal change to indicate the progress of the game.

The Game of Flowers

The game of flowers is simple and sweet. It is played similar to "London Bridge." Two children stand opposite each other and raise their joined hands. Those forming the ring pass under, while all keep saying or singing, suiting the action to the words they sing: —

"We're looking about for a daffodil,
A daffodil, a daffodil:
We're looking about for a daffodil;
We've found one here."

At the word "here" the raised arms come down and inclose the head of the child who happens at that moment to be passing underneath their hands. Then all sing:

"We find one here, we find one here;
We 're looking about for a daffodil,
And find one here."

"Daffodil" now takes the place of one of the children who caught him or her, then calls out, "Buttercup." The children all understand that buttercup, instead of daffodil, is the word, so they make the lines:

"We 're looking about for a buttercup,
A buttercup, a buttercup," etc.

The leader may hold a bouquet and give to each child the flower chosen.

The next child, "Buttercup," being duly "found," takes the place of "Daffodil," and the child who has held that place goes into the ring. The newcomer calls out the name of some flower, like bright bluebell, daisy flower, or mignonette, and substituting that word they sing as before. Each child tries to be ready with the name of some favorite flower, and the game may

close when each child flower has been "found."

Fox

A GAME in which the children can run is always a favorite. "Fox" is another ring play, so easy that the smaller children can play it without help. One of the child "foxes" stays outside the ring and slyly slaps the shoulder of one of the children. "Fox" runs to the left, the child to the right. They meet, pass each other going at full speed around the ring. The one who gets back to the "den" (the place in the ring where the child was standing) may hold that place, and the other must be the fox and try a race with some other child.

Magic Bridge

THE magic bridge is another popular game. The children join hands and form in a ring. If the number is large there should be four "bridges" at the quarter points of the ring, these being numbered one, two, three, and four, — one opposite three and two opposite four. The bridges are formed by two children who raise their

joined hands for the others to pass under. The pianist leads with a bright, familiar air, and the children all follow the tune, singing tra-la-la, tra-la-la, as they dance and skip along, keeping step to the music. They go one or more times around in a circle, then the leader indicates where a "bridge" is to be made. Two children raise their joined hands, and the two children standing opposite in the ring cross the centre of the circle. All the others following after, pass under the "bridge." Then, turning to right and left respectively, the two lines follow the path of the circle as formed first, meet, join hands again, and a new circle is formed. Another "bridge" appears as if by magic, and the children opposite it lead again through it, the while keeping the merry measure with song and dance. This is one of the prettiest of dancing games, which it is not necessary to "know how" to do; they learn it as they go.

Jingle Bells

"Jingle Bells" is another frolic which pleases the little ones. Let mamma or the

hostess harness up the children for a "team." They have a string of small bells around their necks, and a cambric or tarlatan rope is used for the "tackle" — the children taking hold of it by twos, except the last in line, who acts as "driver." The pianist plays the well-known college glee, "Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way," and the children trot away at a merry pace. The leaders hurry on, making devious turns to right and left, supposably through snowdrifts and over high hills and down in deep valleys. The children sing the chorus, and the trip proves so delightful that they are never ready to stop until a long journey has been made.

The above games may all be successfully played by a large party of children.

Jack Frost

Little folk delight much in games of action. Jack Frost understands children pretty well, so he gives them plenty of lively exercise when he comes along. The leader need not describe the game before-

hand to the players, but all may form in a large ring, and the children be divided into groups of ten. To each ten an adult should be assigned, who can assist the little people should they need help in understanding the game as it progresses. Let each group face the centre of the room, where the leader stands, and place each number one at the left end of each section.

The leader claps her hands together and calls out, "Where is Jack Frost?" A boy dressed (or not) to represent his icy kingship, runs around the ring and swings a wand touching number one of each section on the right hand. Each number one turns to the left and says to number two, "Jack Frost came this way." Number two asks, "What did he do?" Number one replies, "He nipped my right hand, oh!" Immediately number one shakes the right hand violently. Number two turns to number three and says, "Jack Frost came this way." Number three inquires, "What did he do?" Number two replies, "He nipped my right hand, oh!" Number two begins to shake violently its frost-bitten hand and

number one continues the shaking. This goes on in the same way until number ten is reached. By that time everybody in the room is shaking a frosty right hand, which must be kept still shaking while Jack Frost again goes flying around the room and touches the left hand of each number one. Then, as before, number two is told by number one that Jack Frost came this way, and that he nipped his or her left hand. Then, by the same process, word is carried by repeated questions and answers and hand-shaking to number ten, until everybody in the room is shaking two frost-bitten hands.

Jack Frost again flies around and nips the right foot of each number one, and a right foot is added to the shaking members. Then later a left foot; then two feet together; and the children are all shaking their hands and hopping up and down upon both feet. Then the right ear is nipped, and the hand-shaking and jumping go on with the head turned down upon the right shoulder. The left ear falls a victim, and the head turns upon the left shoulder. The

last round inquires, "Has Jack Frost bitten you enough?" The reply is affirmative, and the heads jerks assent. It must be understood that at no moment during the entire game do the players cease from shaking each part of the body that has been nipped with frost.

Shakers

Shakers is a game which children of all ages enjoy. A ring is formed, including the whole company. The leader explains the game somewhat, and begins singing, adapting the words to the descending musical scale: —

"I put my right hand in" (toward the centre of ring),
"I put my right hand out" (turn body square about and thrust arm out),
"I give my right hand shake, shake, shake" (suit action to words),
"And I turn myself about" (turn square about to face centre of ring).

Then the action song goes on: —

"I put my left hand in,
I put my left hand out,
I give my left hand shake, shake, shake," etc.

Succeeding verses change as follows: "I put my two hands in," then "my right foot," "my left foot," "my two feet" (jumping), one after the other. This is a pleasant go-to-bed game for small children.

Children are also delighted with action that represents different kinds of labor. They are naturally imitative, and the leader needs but to start the different movements and the little people will at once join in. Take the different movements of the hay-maker, for instance. He swings the scythe, he tosses the hay in spreading, he rakes it, he sits down to rest, he eats his lunch, he drinks cool milk, he takes a noon nap, he wakes up, pitches the hay upon the cart, he calls haw, haw, haw! gee, gee, gee! to the oxen, he swings a whip, and when the loads are all in he claps his hands for joy. Each motion the children can imitate, and they do this, keeping time to music.

A Bean-Bag Contest

An exhilarating game of bean-bags may be played indoors, as there is no tossing

nor throwing. First there should be a dozen red and a dozen blue bean-bags made. Each bag should be made of strong material, and in size ten inches long by seven wide, and be filled about half full of beans. Among a company of boys and girls two leaders and an umpire should be chosen. The leaders should choose sides, and the ones chosen should take their places behind the leaders, all facing the same direction, so as to form two columns of players — the dozen blue bags placed on a chair in front of the leader of the "blues," and the red bags placed in front of the leader of the "reds." There should be the same number of children in each column, and at the lower ends of the columns should be placed chairs on which to receive the bags. When the last bag has passed down to the end of the column the players should right-about-face, so that the ones at the foot of the lines may become leaders in sending the bags back to the place of starting. There are five orders: —

Pass bags with right hand. Pass bags

with left hand. Pass bags with both hands over the head. Pass bags with right hand over the left shoulder. Pass bags with left hand over the right shoulder.

Before beginning the contest a few trial orders should be given, so that each player shall fully understand the game, as one dull player will lose the game for the most active side. When only one hand is used in passing bags the other hand should be placed on chest or hip, so that the umpire can see that there is no unfairness. When the twelve bags have been the length of the columns and back to the chair from which they were taken the leader shouts "out," and scores a round for the "blues" or "reds," whichever it may be. The side that reports the most "outs" is, of course, the winning side, and each player should be decorated with a buttonhole bouquet. As the game is exhilarating, cooling refreshments should be served. The bags may be filled with peanuts, and opened when time for refreshments comes, if the game is played out-of-doors.

HOME PARTIES FOR CHILDREN

HOME PARTIES FOR CHILDREN

In the number of guests children's parties may range from two to two hundred. The invitations should always be sent out in the name of the child for whom the party is given, and the delight of sending and receiving the invitations is increased a hundred-fold if tiny note paper be used for their inscription. Children's parties should be held not later in the day than 4 P. M., and should continue for either two or three hours. Three to six are the ideal hours for such an entertainment, as the little guests then reach home in time for bed.

What to Give the Little Ones to Eat

The party itself, in the minds of children, is invariably the supper, and especially that part of it which consists of ice cream.

From the following list of dishes, which are available for children's suppers, menus which are attractive and hygienic may be readily compiled: Bouillon, hot and cold; oyster stew, creamed chicken, cold chicken, chicken croquettes, rice croquettes, finger rolls, thin slices of bread and butter, chicken sandwiches; chocolate and vanilla ice cream, lemon and orange water ice, orange and lemon jelly, charlotte russe, sugar cookies, lady fingers, sponge-cake, cup-cake, and small chocolate cakes.

The soups should be served if possible in fancy bouillon cups with an accompaniment of crackers. Creamed chicken should be served in fancy paper patty cases. Bread should be sliced very thin, evenly buttered, and then cut into fancy shapes, circles, and diamonds. Sandwiches should be rolled or cut into the same fancy shapes. Ice cream is especially welcome when served in individual forms. Home-made desserts, such as blanc mange and jelly, are also most attractive if made in little individual forms. Cakes should be small and generously iced. Chocolate is the drink *par excellence*, espe-

cially when served in after-dinner coffee-cups. If fruit is served at all it should be very ripe and sweet. Candies should be of the simplest kind, those containing nuts, figs, dates, raisins, etc., being avoided. Nothing gives a child more pleasure than the old-fashioned paper motto candies.

The Table for the Little Guests

The arrangement of the table must receive special attention. Great success is obtained by using four or more small tables arranged as a hollow square. The children are then readily waited upon, and more easily kept in order should the party include any especially mischievous boys. Flowers may be dispensed with, unless *boutonnières* and small bouquets are distributed at each place. When this is done, and tiny guest cards with "Brownie" decorations used, the little folks' delight is much increased. High chairs must be provided for the smallest guests, unless low tables are used for these mites; in which case small chairs, bibs, mugs, and spoons are also in order. If fruit is to be eaten, allow it to be

used as decoration, serving each variety by itself on low flat dishes ornamented with natural leaves. The candies and cakes also should appear on the table, as they add greatly to its decorative effect. The sandwiches and bread and butter should be served lavishly on a number of small dishes, so as to permit one dish to be available to every four guests.

The Popular "Spider-Web" Party

Next after the supper in order of importance, but before it in point of time, comes the entertainment provided. If any special form has been arranged the invitations should so announce it — "Spider Web," "Punch and Judy," "Candy Pull," "Soap Bubble," or "Fish Pond" being written in the lower left-hand corner of the invitation. For a "Spider-Web Party" quite elaborate preparations are needed. From the central chandelier of the parlor should depend a large brown spider, whose back is sufficiently hollowed to contain a gilded spool, about which should be wound the ends of innumerable tinsel cords, the lines of cords

interlaced and wound about so as to make a gigantic web which will stretch through two or three rooms and even up a staircase, always ending behind some chair, picture, couch, or table, and always having at the end an inexpensive gift of a toy or a box of candy.

Amusement with Soap Bubbles

For a "Punch and Judy" show an entertainer is usually provided. A "Candy Pull" must be given in a kitchen, and for this molasses, sugar, and butter must be provided in large quantities. Several bright saucepans and a clear fire are necessary, as well as two or three grown people to superintend the actual candy cooking. Plenty of aprons must also be at hand, and unlimited good nature.

For a "Soap-Bubble Party" a long, narrow table should be covered with a trebly-folded blanket, over which should be placed a sheet. As many small basins — papier maché are best — must be supplied as there are children, and several extra clay pipes to allow for breakage. The

suds may be prepared the day before from Castile soap. If a little glycerine be added the bubbles will gain in tenacity and brilliancy. Care must be taken to keep the fluid tightly corked until it is needed. Prizes may be awarded for the longest, the shortest, the greatest number at one blow, the largest and the smallest bubbles blown. The pipes, of course, which may be decorated with ribbon, should be carried home as souvenirs.

Fun at a Fish Pond

A "Fish Pond" is a large tub or clothes-basket in which are various small packages so tied that a loop is left in each. A fishing rod with a good-sized hook is provided, and each child given a certain number of opportunities to capture the gifts.

Where Merriment is Plentiful

A "Donkey Party" is, of course, well known; an "Elephant Party" is of the same kind, where the attempt is made when blindfolded to properly place the trunk, and a "Nose Party" is one where

the attempt to locate the nose on a huge face is made. These parties afford great merriment, and if prizes are offered for the nearest and the furthest attempts, special incentives for proficiency and consolation for inaptness are provided. Magic-lantern exhibitions are always appreciated, as are the efforts of a prestidigitateur.

A Juvenile Auction

An "Auction Sale" gives great fun to its participants. Each child is provided with a small basket or bag containing fifty dried beans. A large basket containing parcels of every shape and size is brought in, and an older person selected as auctioneer. These packages may contain things of value and of no value, of use and of no use, but in every case their identity must be hidden by their wrappings. The auctioneer, who has no knowledge of the contents of the parcels, must proceed to describe with great imagination the articles for sale, trying to guess from the shape what the articles may be. The children bid their beans for the parcels, each bean

representing one cent, each article being sold at auction to the highest bidder.

Good Old-Fashioned Games

For those children who simply love games the old-fashioned party is revived. Two older persons are needed to successfully manage such an affair, both being persons who can sing, and one able to play the piano. "Going to Jerusalem" is a great favorite. A row of chairs numbering one less than the number of participants in the game is arranged with the backs alternating. The children are then seated, the extra child standing at one end as leader. The pianist plays a gay tune, to which the children march around the chairs. The pianist then stops suddenly in the middle of a phrase, and every one, including the leader, scrambles for a chair, the person left over being out of the game. A chair is then removed and the march continues, a person and a chair being removed with each tune. When there are but two contestants and one chair the struggle is exciting and amusing. The

person who gains the chair has succeeded in getting to "Jerusalem."

Another well-known game is "Stage Coach," which may be varied by a "Mother Goose" story, in which the children are given the names of various characters in "Mother Goose," the narrative concerning them requiring the same recognition of characters as in "Stage Coach," — "Mother Goose flew away" being the synonym for "the stage coach broke down." "Oats, Peas, Beans," is an old-fashioned but very enjoyable game. "Miss Jennie Jones" and "Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush" are much alike, but sufficiently different to prove very entertaining. The old game of "Can You Dance Lobi?" is very mirth-inspiring. "Drop the Handkerchief," "Puss in the Corner," "Pass the Slipper," and "Who's Got the Button?" are great fun. "Pillows and Keys" is a famous old game. "Clap-in, Clap-out" is another enjoyable one.

For Little Ones over Ten Years

Where the guests are all over ten years of age a progressive party is much appreciated. Tables seating six should be provided, also tally cards, which should be similarly decorated in groups of three with ribbon. Pink, blue, red, yellow, purple, and white are good colors to use in each case, the three persons who play together being designated by having the same colors. "Lotto" and "Authors," or other like games, may be played at alternating tables, the points being counted according to a system carefully explained to the children. The winners should progress from table to table, the three children progressing the greatest number of times, and the three progressing the least, securing prizes. This amusement must not be attempted with children younger than ten, as, in the first place, it does not furnish entertainment to minds younger than that, and further, great disquiet and dispute will follow the prize awarding. For children younger than that the "Caucus Race"

principle must be observed — "everybody must win and all must have prizes."

A Simple Patty-Pan Party

One little girl of nine did so want to have a real birthday party, but when people live in the country it is not always easy to plan and prepare for company. Nannie's mamma, however, finally hit on a plan which is worth telling and worth copying. Down she went to the village store and bought a dozen and a half bright tin patty-pans, nine tin cups, and some tiny note paper and envelopes, and that same day Nannie wrote eight invitations as follows:

My Dear Friend: Next Tuesday is my birthday. I am nine. Come over and play with me at my party at three o'clock in the afternoon. Be sure and come early. Your friend,

Nannie.

P. S. — Wear your every-day dress and apron.

Promptly at three o'clock the next Tuesday eight little girls in clean aprons arrived and sat solemnly down in the parlor. Then Nannie's mamma told them that the party

was to be in the kitchen, and some one suggested "Candy Pull."

That magic word hurried them out to the kitchen; and there on the table were nine groups of things, each one consisting of a bowl, a tin cup, a soup-plate, a crimped patty-pan, a tablespoon, a teaspoon, and a doll spoon and fork. On a smaller table near by stood sugar, eggs, and other ingredients, while a brisk fire burned in the range.

"Now," said Nannie's mamma, "we will all go to work and make our own cakes and custards for tea, and see how well we can do it. I want each little girl to have something nice to take home to show her mother what a good housekeeper she can be. No one knows, until she tries, how much fun it is to cook."

The children were delighted at the prospect, and examined their groups of dishes. Then each child was given half a cup of sugar in the bowl, and a lump of butter, and was taught how to beat them together well; then the yolk of an egg was added, the white being put in the soup-plate to be

whipped light with a fork later. Then a little flour, two tablespoonfuls of sweet milk, and two doll spoonfuls of baking powder after the rest of a teacupful of flour had been stirred in. When it came to beating the whites the little arms grew tired, and it seemed as if those whites never would stand alone, but at last they were added to the batter, which was whisked with a tablespoon until it bubbled. In order to have each cake different a tablespoonful of grated cocoanut for one, the same of chocolate for another, some currants, pounded almonds, chopped raisins, and citron and lemon peel, spices, lemon juice, and pink coloring and vanilla were arranged.

When all were ready a teaspoonful of batter was put in each buttered patty-pan, all set in a large pan and put in the oven. Mamma attended to the baking, and very soon each little girl had two pretty, crinkled cakes for her very own.

Then came the boiled custard, with a cup of milk put on to heat in the tin cup, an egg and two tablespoonfuls of sugar

beaten together, meanwhile the boiling milk poured on the mixture and well stirred before putting back in the tin cup to thicken. While the custard and cakes were cooling the children ran out to the garden and gathered jonquils and violets for the table, which they helped Nannie's mamma to arrange with her pretty china dishes.

When the flowers were all arranged and everything looked lovely, a surprise came in the shape of a beautiful birthday cake with nine candles around the edge and one "to grow on" in the middle. Also several dishes of candies, nuts, preserves, and sandwiches appeared. By that time the custard was cool enough to flavor, and all sat down to enjoy themselves, which they did most heartily.

After tea, when the candles had been blown out, the big cake cut and tasted, and going-home time had come, each little girl's own private opinion was that the dear little cake, which she was about to carry home to her mother in a new patty-pan, was the best part of the party.

An Open-Air Party for Little Folk

Fairyland becomes a reality to children when revelling with many playfellows in the freedom of an "outdoor party." Manners are not so narrowly scanned out under the wide blue sky as in a drawing-room, and, in common with other frolicsome young animals, children seem to rejoice in their liberty as in something for which God and Nature intended them. The holiday feeling which the wee folk bring with them in their merry little hearts, the brightening effect of the fresh perfumed air, and the excitement of each other's society, make any great effort for their amusement unnecessary.

In the joy of receiving an invitation to a "pound party," the children will be glad of the opportunity to give pleasure suggested in the words, "A pound package solicited, to be given to the poor." The tender young hearts will be quick to feel sympathy for the privation and suffering of the unfortunate, and it is a sweet lesson to learn early in life that when pleasure comes

to us in any form we are to "pass it on" that some other may be gladdened also. Pounds of tea, sugar, coffee, rice, prunes, crackers — though costing but a trifle — will carry pleasure and perhaps needed relief to some poor homes.

It will add to the fun if you can get a little donkey, caparisoned in true Spanish style with worsted tassels, red, blue, and yellow galore, bearing a large pannier on each side, into which the parcels may be dropped. If the animal be left to wander about the lawn, and the children have to chase him a little in order to make their contributions, the fun will be the greater. If, by accident, any of Jack's antics should dislodge a package or two, the catastrophe will probably be received with peals of laughter and the contents not greatly injured. Donkeys are usually docile little animals, and may be had for hire in many country towns. Besides, it is probable that a ride on donkey-back may be a novelty to some of the children. The little ones will exchange eager confidences about what their particular pack-

ages contain, and the sense of importance in playing the rôle of benefactor may be a new pleasure.

To dispose of the little souvenirs they may play a new game called "Bubbles and Bundles." The little gifts must be previously prepared, each one placed in a box or made into a bundle, and tied up as prettily as possible in colored tissue papers, with ribbons to match. Some may be grotesque to excite curiosity, and others artistic. A little practice will soon reveal the wonderful possibilities of tissue paper to make most dainty and charming trifles.

These bundles are suspended by ribbons on a strong cord, or clothes-line suspended from tree to tree, in a manner remotely to suggest a cobweb. The children are provided with pretty terra-cotta soap-bubble pipes, tied with ribbons, and a huge bowl of soapsuds is brought upon the scene. A tablespoonful of glycerine added to the suds will prevent the bubbles from breaking easily. Two persons at a time take turns in blowing. The bubbles must be

thrown off the pipes into the air, and the children get under them and try to blow them against the packages that they wish for their own. If the bubble hits the bundle, the latter is awarded as a prize, and when a child has secured one he does not try again. It has all the mysterious charm of a game of chance without its objectionable features.

To distinguish between the gifts appropriate for the boys and those for the girls, it may be determined to wrap those for the former in scarlet, yellow, and green, while the others may be pink, blue, white, and lilac. The souvenirs may be as simple and inexpensive as those in a "grab-bag" at a fair, — children are easily pleased, — or they may be as fine as means may permit or taste dictate.

Little tables set out under the trees, prettily decorated with daisies and buttercups, will enable the children to "play tea-party" after an ideal fashion. A sensible menu that will leave no unpleasant after-effects may consist of chicken sandwiches, milk or cocoa, ice cream in flower moulds,

sponge-cake, lady-fingers, and plain bonbons. The costume mottoes never fail to create a little flutter of excitement and fun, for the boys like the noise and the girls enjoy the "dressing up."

LAWN PARTIES AND OUT-DOOR FÊTES

LAWN PARTIES AND OUT-DOOR FÊTES

During the summer and early autumn months country towns and villages are, as a rule, full of city visitors and boarders. How to entertain them is a matter of special interest to hostesses and their young friends. As a help in that direction this chapter offers a variety of novel suggestions.

Whatever kind of fête is decided upon, it is worth while to make it distinctive in type by suitable costumes, decoration, and menu. Visitors are to be depended upon for help in this direction. Usually, little expense need be incurred.

The degree of elaboration must depend upon the size and location of grounds, and the particular kind of serving intended. If tables are set, menu, cards, and plate

souvenirs of rustic type should be used, also centrepieces representing the idea of the fête. If a picnic luncheon is preferred, let the costumes and general decorating serve that purpose.

A Mother Goose Frolic

Children are always delighted with a costume party, and the Mother Goose family is to them an enjoyable company. So, the hostess who would wish to please the little people, could do no better than to invite them to a lawn party, with the request that each shall come as one of Mother Goose's children. The hostess, or the little girl whom she may choose, should serve as Mother Goose, and receive the company. The costumes required are so simple that no great skill or expense is necessary in preparing them. A well illustrated copy of the book would give helpful hints about what to wear.

A lawn furnished with swings, and with hoops to trundle, also games, — croquet, battledore and shuttlecock, ball, etc., — would insure for the children a happy

time. Yet, as pertinent to the Mother Goose idea, a "gooseberry" tree is suggested as a vehicle of conveyance for bonbons and gifts. This tree should stand apart from the others, and may well be not over eight feet tall. Upon it toys, sugar animals, fishes, birds, etc., are hung, just like a Christmas-tree. Each should be labelled, not for the children by name, but for the character they assume, thus: Sheep for Bo-peep; Fish for Simple Simon; Baby for Rock-a-bye; Spider for Miss Muffit, etc. A merry dance around the tree, and the singing of Mother Goose songs, should precede the picking of these unique "gooseberries" from the tree.

For plate souvenirs large sugar plums, with rhymes from "Mother Goose," each suited to the character chosen, pasted upon one side, are pretty; and a handsome pyramidal centrepiece may be made by stacking gooseberry tarts to form the required shape, then daintily decorating the same with flowers, the pedestal being covered wholly with roses. Tarts and roses are to be distributed later.

Rustic Pastime for Girls

The holiday costumes of peasants in all European countries are picturesque. Many of them, especially the Swiss, French, Italian, and Alsatian, are very pretty. They are particularly suitable for out-of-door fêtes, and a company of pleasure-seekers could hardly choose more fittingly for enjoying a summer afternoon than to prepare for a peasants' party with the idea of representing as many different countries as possible.

Games, dancing upon the lawn, and other sports, may be enjoyed in imitation of the joyous fêtes so famous among Europeans.

There is another popular suggestion — that of a dairy-maid party. This, too, is pretty for costuming — the broad Gainsborough hat, fan waist, velvet bodice, full and rather short skirt, with low shoes and colored stockings, being generally worn on holidays. The floor of the dairy house, or the big barn, is cleared, and by lantern light, and with the music of rustic

fiddlers, old-time "figures" are recalled and games of other days revived. Then milk, cream, cakes, cheese, curds, whey, ices, and berries are handed about, the company sitting the while upon milking-stools — a most pastoral type of serving.

Then, again, there is the corn roast in its season, just when the field corn is "in the milk." The evening is best for this. Companies ride to the roast, if they choose, in hay wagons. A glowing hard-wood fire greets the guests: they spear the corn ears with long, sharpened poles, then kneel down before the fire to roast them. Blankets are spread upon mounds of newly-mown hay for seats, and the corn, when roasted golden-brown, is served.

Dancing upon the lawn by moonlight, with Chinese lanterns among the trees, and the firelight sending forth cheery rays, is a scene to tempt a band of happy young people.

Duties of the Matrons

The absence of conventionality, while it may be, and is, one of the pleasantest

features of country and seaside life, places upon mothers and chaperones a double duty and care. In preparing for lawn parties, at which, by the way, there should be matrons, — indeed, there is greater need of this than in home society, where everybody is well known, — the older friends may do much to assist in matters of costuming, entertaining, refreshment-serving, and introduction. The ideal pleasure party is one in which children, young people, and adults all have a happy part.

Guests at mountain and seaside hotels are not always the kind of companions parents would choose for their children and young friends, yet a kindly courtesy demands that no one shall be excluded from the general merry-making. It, therefore, requires a deal of tact on the part of the older people to protect the younger members. The presence of the "grown-ups" is the best protection.

A Gypsy Camp

A "Gypsy Camp" is a pretty and attractive affair, and easily managed, even where

there are but few trees in the grounds. Invitations written upon cards cut from the inner peeling of birch bark, if such can be obtained, are most suitable, and may read something after this style: "The Shonshone gypsies will camp at Blank's Grove. One hour after the sunset gun, meet us, wearing the costume of your tribe."

By this card the people invited understand that they are to join the company wearing the dress of their respective tribes. As many different tribes as possible should be represented, and from as many different countries. There can be little difficulty in this age of pictorial literature in finding pictures or paintings to give models for the required costumes. They differ very little among the semi-barbaric tribes (and those are the types most picturesque for representation) from the costumes of the peasantry, being rather more showy in color, and more profusely ornamented with beads, buckles, and bracelets.

The conventional gypsy costume generally worn by European tribes consists of the white blouse waist, with a bright-

colored corset bodice, which is really neither more nor less than an ordinary corset worn upon the outside of the dress, laced at the back with bright red cord; bright colored, and full gathered, or plaited skirt; low shoes, with stockings to match the dress; broad-brimmed hat, with broad ribbon streamers, but more often an orange or red handkerchief tied over the head. Strings of beads of every variety of colored glass and coral are massed about the neck and waist. They also hang from the shoulders with the ends caught by bracelets above the elbow or at the waist, and are sometimes looped from shoulder to shoulder. Many varieties of colors are combined, so that, even with the same style of dress, their costumes are wholly different in effect.

The men wear high-crowned hats, with long feathers or plumes; blouses in bright showy stripes; long waistcoats of contrasting color; long dark stockings; full trousers and low buckled shoes; fancy-colored necktie and handkerchief make up costumes both suitable and attractive.

To Prepare the Lawn

It is a pretty idea to set up a goodly number of tents and booths. The tents, of course, should have canvas roofs, the sides being left uncovered. Booths, which look picturesque and pretty, are easily made thus: —

Set firmly in the sod, in a circle, a half-dozen posts, say eight feet high, with another post a little longer, and one foot, at least, taller, in the centre of these. Connect their tops with the centre post by narrow boards; also connect the outer posts with each other in a similar way. Then form a network of ropes sufficiently close to hold up the fresh green boughs, which, being heaped upon it, form the roof of the booth. Wind the posts with ivies and greens; then ornament them with flowers or bright bits of red, orange, and blue bunting. Hang Chinese lanterns between the posts, and the structure will be complete. It will be pretty enough to remain all summer, with now and then a fresh covering of greens. A large booth of

this kind, set in the centre of the grounds, with a camp-fire built near at hand, over which a gypsy kettle (nearly every farm-house can furnish one) is hung, with blankets spread about among rustic seats, makes a very good representation of a genuine gypsy camp.

Chinese lanterns, plenty of them, should be hung in the tents and among the trees. There should be music, also. The nearest imitation of gipsy music is given by playing upon combs, Jews'-harps, and violins, accompanied by clappers or "bones," tambourine, and drums. The mouth harmonica also is good. The weird and seemingly tuneless music of the gypsy cannot be closely imitated. The rhythm of it is strongly marked, and those who do not play keep the time by clapping their hands, striking their knees, and joining in a guttural tone, emphasized at each rhythmic beat. A gypsy dance upon the lawn would be suited to the hour. Songs, merry choruses, and bright stories should abound.

The Question of Refreshments

Served in gipsy style the refreshments may consist of coffee (supposably cooked in the steaming kettle hanging above the fire), tropical fruits, such as oranges, lemons, bananas, nuts, raisins, etc. Cool drinks should be brought around in large pails, and dipped therefrom into tin or earthen mugs. Plates, napkins, and all other signs of a more civilized serving should be dispensed with as far as possible. A large company may be thus served with very little effort.

Fortune-telling belongs to gypsy life, though the more intelligent tribes of to-day make little use of it. Mysterious oracles, "whose glib tongues spin mirthfully the thread of fortune," ought to have a place.

Sometimes fêtes of this kind are arranged for the purpose of assisting some charity, or for establishing a magazine and book club. Then young girls in costume sell oranges, peanuts, candies, etc., and pretty Italian gypsy girls play the tambourine and sing songs for the help of the treasury.

The novelty and brightness of this rural

scene, especially under the light of an August or September moon, cannot fail to delight a company of merry young people.

Some Other Out-Door Fêtes

With July comes the Fourth, always suggestive of the Red, White, and Blue — bunting, flags, and fireworks; and whatever kind of celebration is decided upon, whether boating, picnicking, or an "at-home" fête, the national emblem and colors must rule the day. The colors of no nation lend themselves so beautifully and so gracefully to decoration as do those of America, and in whatever fête given out-of-doors our national colors should in some manner take part.

A Haymakers' Picnic for July

It is the month, too, of hay-making, and a "haymakers' picnic" furnishes a novelty with which city people, especially, are delighted. The young people braid yards of clover, daisy, and buttercup blossoms for decorating the big hay wagon. Wheels, stakes, and shaft, and the broad hay frame

are all wound, festooned, and wreathed. The oxen, too, are dressed in a flower-bedecked yoke, their horns tied with ribbons, and a broad floral saddle placed upon their backs.

Girls wear broad-brimmed hats, gingham dresses, strong boots, and long leather gloves to protect the hands while haying, and men wear linen "jumpers," their trousers tucked into high top boots; also leather gloves.

Hampers are packed with a generous lunch, and the haymakers ride away in their gala wagon to the field which, if possible, should border a lake or pond surrounded by plenty of shade. There the haying goes on, not with modern methods, but after the more pastoral type, the men swinging scythes, and the girls spreading the grass, then raking it ready for making the load.

Luncheon is served at high noon, the hayers sitting upon mounds of newly-mown hay. The conventional "noon hour" is extended, so that sailing, rowing, fishing, or berry picking may be enjoyed, after which a hay load of convenient size is pre-

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pared, and they all ride homeward, hay-maker fashion, on the top of the load.

A "Fish Fry" for August

Dog days and showery weather make the fish hungry; and, in the opinion of many folk, there is no sort of a holiday that quite equals an all-day fishing picnic. The party start off in the cool of the early morning for a drive of a dozen miles to some pond or lake. They camp upon the shore and start a glowing fire. Then all take boats for fishing, with a right earnest purpose of catching enough shiners, trout, or perch for dinner.

"If the day is right
And the big fish bite,"

there's little danger of failure; yet the fortunes of the day are safest in the hands of experienced fishermen, such as usually frequent fishing grounds. They know the haunts of the fish, and are sure to bring them in. They can dress them in a trice, and no *chef*, though he may be a thousand times French, can produce such crisp, dainty, deli-

cious morsels as will those same queer old fishermen, with nothing at hand but a long-handled fry pan, a bit of salt pork, a dish of Indian meal, and a wood fire whose very smoke seems to add the crowning flavor.

For side dishes take field corn, with the husks on, also potatoes and green apples; bury them either in white sand of the beach, or in clean ashes, then build above them a glowing fire, and after an hour's cooking they come forth "fit to set before a king."

For the Warm September Days

City people who linger during the warm September days to watch the ripening fruit, and bringing in of the yellow corn and grain, must enjoy right heartily an "apple bee" or "husking," arranged in exact imitation of the old-fashioned pattern of fifty years or more ago.

It is not difficult to find in ancient chests and attics well-preserved costumes of that period. Arrayed in these, the young people often begin the "bee" by gathering the orchard apples with their own hands during the afternoon; then in the evening young

men come, armed with "Jacks" for paring the fruit, and maidens equip themselves with apple knives for "quartering and coring" it; also long slim needles for stringing the prepared pieces. After stringing the fruit they hang it in festoons along drying bars suspended from the ceiling of the old-fashioned kitchen. Then underneath these they dance the "figures" of "ye old time," and revive the games and frolics of that day. Refreshments should not vary much from the old-time menu, — doughnuts and cheese, pumpkin pie, popped corn, home-made molasses candy, and sweet, new cider.

A "husking," which follows the fashion of our grandparents' day, takes place on the big barn floor where corn "stooks" bank the outer walls, the center being reserved for the yellow mound of husked ears, to which all contribute a share. Milking stools are set for seating the huskers. As fast as the "stooks" are husked they are removed, and the corn is carried to the bin by basketfuls. Searching for ears of red corn furnishes a deal of merriment. By

these the sweethearts for the evening are chosen, duplicate ears in the order of finding deciding the choice. When the corn is all husked, and the floor cleared, and the primitive style of serving such old-time goodies as mince and pumpkin pies, apple turnovers, fruit, nut and honey cakes, with coffee and cider has been enjoyed, then under the lantern light, the clean, soft hay sifting down from the overhanging beams and rafters, many songs, legends, and stories fill the hour; or, to the music of fiddle, fife, and snare-drum, the barn-floor dance goes on.

The Best Picnic Luncheon

The luncheon is one of the most enjoyable features of picnicking, and the following hints may prove helpful in preparing and packing the same, so that, when served, it may tempt both the eye and the appetite.

Meats for sandwiches should be boiled the day before; then, after the removal of bone, skin, and gristle, they should be put in packing tins, heavily weighted, and set in a cool place over night. Cut in thin slices.

Bread one day old is best, and a sharp knife is needed for cutting it into thin slices not over three inches square. These, buttered slightly, may be daintily filled with ham, salad, sardines, tongue, or whatever one likes. Then cut pieces of confectioners' paper just large enough to cover the sandwiches neatly. Place them side by side, closely packed, and they will preserve their shape without breaking. The paper is not to be removed until they are served.

Cakes must also be one day old, and, for picnic use, a little extra flour in stirring, and an extra five or ten minutes in baking, will insure a firmer crust. Frosting, if put on hot, does not crackle and fall off. Cookies are more desirable than loaf cake, as are, also, cup and gem cakes. Jelly and cream confections are seldom good for picnic serving.

Pies made of jellies, fruits, or sweets are best cooked turnover fashion, the pastry covering the filling entirely. Lay them in paper covers for convenient serving.

Lemon, orange, strawberry, raspberry, or currant juices should be extracted, then

sweetened, and, when the sugar is well dissolved, bottled. Drinks can then be prepared by adding two tablespoonfuls of the liquid to a tumbler of ice water. All these juices combined make a delicious drink.

Strong coffee or tea may also be prepared and served in the same way. Bright tin mugs are more convenient than tumblers, and there is no danger of breakage.

Hampers, with several trays, are very desirable for packing. Ordinary lunch baskets cause difficulty. White confectioners' paper should be used for lining the basket, and for separating the different kinds of food; also, for covering neatly individual pieces. Cookies and crackers must be put in tight boxes. Plates are too heavy, but bright, new biscuit tins — the square shapes are best — are useful in packing, and with fringed napkins laid inside, they serve well for salvers in handing the food around. Paper napkins are best.

Whatever is to be eaten last should be packed at the bottom of the hamper, and

that to be served first, at the top. Fruit, pickles, olives, and cheese must not be forgotten.

A Wild-Rose Party

The invitations should be sent out during the latter days of May or early days in June, the invitation card, of heavy white paper, being decorated with a spray of wild roses.

When the guests assemble upon the lawn each one should be handed either bouquet or *boutonnière* of wild roses, the gentlemen being permitted to select partners, and all to arrange themselves comfortably in close proximity to the hostess, who for this occasion is given the seat of honor, close beside a rustic table covered with wild roses. Each lady is handed a long strip of rose-colored paper, and each gentleman a pencil, and the party begins in earnest. The hostess reads aloud the following questions, the answers to which are to be found in the names of flowers, and written in order on the slips provided; and, as two heads are better than one, the gentlemen may hold many consultations with their partners before

they write down the answers which, between them, they have guessed.

The hostess begins the story in this wise: "This is a floral love story taken from the leaves of a bud's journal; her name was Violet."

1 What was her nationality and appearance? [An American Beauty.]
2 What was his disposition and name? [Sweet William.]
3 What was his object in matrimony? [He wished to Marigold.]
4 How did he offer himself? [He Aster.]
5 To whom did she refer him? [Poppy.]
6 What did her father ask concerning William's prospects? [Anemone — any money.]
7 How long had Violet been out in society? [Four seasons.]
8 By whom were they married? [Jack-in-the-pulpit.]
9 How many attended the ceremony? [Phlox.]
10 Who were the bridesmaids? [Wild Rose and Lily-of-the-Valley.]
11 What was the color of their gowns? [Heliotrope and Pink.]
12 What did the bride wear on her head? [Bridal Wreath.]
13 What did she resemble? [Maid in a Mist.]
14 What did the bridegroom wear for the last time? [Bachelor's Buttons.]

15 What did he resemble? [A Night-blooming Cereus — Knight blooming serious.]
16 How was the house decorated for the reception? [With Blue Flags and Yellow Flags.]
17 What did they throw after the carriage? [A Lady's Slipper.]
18 Where did they go on their wedding trip? [Magnolia.]
19 What animals did they see on visiting a menagerie? [A Dandelion and great Solomon's Seal.]
20 What two presents did they take to her parents? [A Dutchman's Pipe, and Yellow Jacket.]
21 What did they take to her good little brother? [Trumpet-vine.]
22 At what hour did he awaken them blowing it? [Four-o'clock.]
23 How long did he keep it going? [Until Deadly Nightshade.]
24 What happened when they took it from him? [He did Balsam — bawl some.]
25 Whom did they engage as cook? [Black-eyed Susan.]
26 Who was her young man? [Ragged Robin.]
27 For what was a plumber called in? [A House-leek.]
28 When Sweet William left home on business what were his parting words? [Forget-me-not.]
29 What did she reply? [Speedwell.]
30 What happened when she saw him returning? [A Yellow Rose — a yell arose.]

31 How did she salute him? [With Tulips.]
32 What bonbons did he bring her? [Buttercups and Marshmallows.]
33 How did Violet rule her husband? [With a Goldenrod.]
34 Was their happiness enduring? [Everlasting.]

When all have finished, the papers are collected and prizes are given to the two who have guessed the most answers correctly, and, of course, to the two who have been least clever in guessing. Flower stick-pins, sunflower pincushions, vases, or a box of buttercups and marshmallow bonbons make suitable prizes. The prize for the couple who have been least successful may be a huge bouquet of roses, or a bonbon box filled with rose-colored "April-fool" candies. Then refreshments may be served upon small tables covered with snowy cloths and lavishly decorated with viands of a rosy hue. A delightful afternoon party may thus be brought to an end.

It is difficult to imagine anything which can be made more charming than the wild-rose luncheon here described. The season is the one of the year which lends itself most

readily to outdoor entertainments, and the prolific growth of roses during June suggests at once the suitable flower for the decorations.

A "Farmer's Supper"

Very attractive is the idea of a "farmer's supper." Though it may be utilized for indoor use, it is prettier on the lawn. It may be given by those who have ample grounds, with conveniences for entertaining large companies, or, picnic fashion, by a company of young people, each person bringing contributions for the table; or, if desired, it can be arranged for in a hall or vestry, when members of Young People's Benevolent Societies wish to raise money to carry on their charitable work.

The "supper" calls together, in rustic costume, the various characters belonging to farm life. The farmer and farmer's wife, with their sons and daughters, receive the company, and give a supper, to which all are invited — dairy men and dairy women; haymakers — men who swing the scythe, and maids who "spread the fallen grass;"

boys who tend the sheep, and little "Bo-peeps" who lose them; plow-boys wearing gloves and whips, and berry pickers bringing their "pails heaped high and red;" gardeners and flower girls; hunters and fisher lads; market girls with baskets of eggs or fruit or vegetables, all come in costume suited to their station and work. The village lawyer, doctor, deacon, and squire may also be added to the list, with the neighborhood rhymester and wit, and the singer of local songs.

The costumes may well be copied from English or continental farm life, or perhaps the American type of a generation ago, since the farmer and his family of to-day wear little or nothing to mark by their dress the nature of their life and work.

Tables spread upon the lawn should be furnished wholly with the fruits of the farm and dairy, the special dishes, such as boiled dinner, baked beans and brown-bread, not omitted. The farmer offers to his guests bread from his fields of corn, rye, and wheat; butter, cheese, milk, cream, and

curds from his dairy; berries and fruits from his fields and orchards; flowers and fresh vegetables from his gardens; fish captured (perhaps) from his meadow brooks; poultry and meats fed by sweet pasturage and grains, and sugar from his own fair maple orchard.

Where the size of the grounds permits, various games, such as quoits, ball, and croquet, etc., foot and jumping races, also swinging, tilting, and dancing upon the lawn may be enjoyed. If indoors, such old-time games as hunt the slipper, stage-coach, and their like can be revived. Choruses, songs, and recitations of the pastoral type, with tableaux and pantomime representing scenes in farm life, may well be offered as a part of the entertainment.

A Midsummer Ice Party

How many housekeepers have received with dismay the news that some intimate friend is visiting a neighbor's in sultry, summer weather, knowing that the intelligence means to them the necessity of giving a dinner to the visiting friend and her hosts,

and asking some people to meet her — and this when the thermometer is most at home in the nineties, and even thoughts of food and dining produce acute discomfort?

However, it is possible to give a formal dinner, which will delight all concerned, even on a sultry August evening, and such a one is the ice party now to be described.

Limit the diners to eight in number, if possible, unless your dining-room will seat more than this with amplest elbow-space. Name seven o'clock as the hour for dinner, and suggest in your informal notes of invitation that evening dress, like oysters, be limited to the months with an "r;" whereupon your male guests will call you blessed.

Cover the table with the snowiest of linen cloths, and use for a centrepiece a frosted-glass bowl of white, or so-called Christmas roses. At each cover place a guest-card of pure white pasteboard sprinkled with diamond dust, in imitation of frost, and having tied to it, with a frosted ribbon, a *boutonnière* or a bunch of the white roses. Use only white bonbons, in glass dishes

for candies, and candles with white frosted shades for illumination.

The dinner must be of the simplest kind. Little-neck clams, served on the half shell, in beds of cracked ice, with celery as a relish, will make an acceptable first course. Omit soups, unless you wish to serve iced bouillon, which but few people like. Cold salmon, cold trout, or any other fish served cold with mayonnaise dressing will be found delicious and appetizing. Your meat course, which should follow, will be the only one in which hot dishes are to be served: "French" lamb chops, Bermuda potatoes, and green peas. Guava jelly should accompany the chops. Lettuce with French dressing, salted wafers and Neuchâtel cheese should be served in the salad course. Vanilla ice cream, moulded into snowballs, and ornamented with a sprig of holly or evergreen, if either can be secured, with frosted fancy cakes, angel's food, or any other cake with white icing, will make a delicious and simple dessert. Iced or hot coffee — whichever is preferred — should be provided, and bonbons.

A Fern Lunch Party

A cool and pretty entertainment for the late summer is a fern party, which is especially within the reach of all out-of-town residents. Gather from the woods as many ferns as you can, the largest to the smallest — each has its particular mission in the scheme of decoration. In sending out your invitations paste neatly at the top of the card a tiny fern of delicate pattern.

On the day of your entertainment, if the exterior of your house will lend itself to the plan, mass ferns generously upon the piazza; have them follow the railing, let them be arranged in shady corners on the porch, and, of course, meet the eye in the hall. In the dressing-rooms, over the white linen covers on the dressing-tables, lay the ferns so they will completely cover them, and decorate the mirrors, fireplaces, and mantels. Exquisite effects can be obtained at the windows with the soft lace curtains. In the drawing-room bank the mantelpieces, and at one end tie a large green satin bow, made of feather-edge ribbon. Tie bunches

of ferns on the lampshades. You will find that the green of ferns will blend with almost any shade of silk, but, of course, all strikingly inharmonious colors should be removed from the room.

When the guests enter the dining-room the effect should be that of going into a fernery. Bank the mantel like that in the drawing-room. In the corners have large boxes filled with ferns, and arrange them to run up as high as possible, which can be done by the aid of tacks and fine green cord. Have the table laid with a fine white damask cloth, fern pattern, if possible, and at the two diagonal corners arrange gracefully loose bunches of the larger ferns tied with large bows of ribbon. The linen centrepiece should be embroidered in a fern design, and on it place a big glass bowl filled with the choicest specimens of the delicate plant. Set each plate on a mat of ferns, which can be easily made by covering a stiff foundation with them. The white candles should have green paper shades, and the *entrées* should, whenever permissible, be garnished with bits of green.

For favors get small glass bowls and ornament them with narrow green ribbons. Line with moss and fill with earth, and then plant in them tiny specimens of maiden-hair fern. This will make a novel and welcome souvenir.

Old-Fashioned Barn Parties

To insure the success of a barn party a moonlight night should be selected. The barn chosen should be large, the floor space ample, and the decorations lavish. They may consist of green boughs, vines, and golden-rod, and a number of American flags. The two large opposite doors should be thrown wide open for free circulation of air. The floor should then be cleared, swept, and washed. High up over one door a large flag may be draped, and wires stretched across from beam to beam, away from direct draughts, upon which Japanese lanterns may be hung, care being taken that none are allowed to come in contact with the bunting in case of one's taking fire. Chairs also should be provided, and a rope stretched across one side of the open

space, on the farther side of which place a table. On this table place a large bowl of soapsuds, into which a spoonful of glycerine has been put, and by its side place half as many pipes as there are to be guests. Prepare half as many cards also as there are to be guests, and write across the full length of each card the name of an agricultural implement, as a hay-rake, hay-cutter, pitchfork, hoe, spade, scythe, sickle, mower, plow, reaper, binder, seeder. Each card should be numbered at the top and bear a question concerning the implement named on it; besides which the number and a query concerning it should be written at the back upon the lower half. Questions like the following will answer: —

1 What is the true mission of a harrow?
2 Can you tell a harrowing tale?
3 What is a hoe used for?
4 What is a good receipt for hoe cake?

The cards should then be cut in halves.

When the guests arrive a numbered half is given to each young woman, and each half upon which a query is written is given to a young man, who proceeds to match

it, retaining as his partner the young woman whose card completes his own. When all have found their partners, the hostess, who is constituted "judge" for the evening, calls out, "Number One," and the young woman who holds this number is escorted to a seat in the middle of the floor, her partner putting to her the question upon his half of the card. She then demands of him an answer to number two. These must be answered in the hearing of the others, and for each failure to do this a forfeit must be paid. When all have participated it is put to vote as to who gave the brightest answer, the winner being granted a first trial at the soap-bubble contest which ensues.

Taking her place by the table on one side of the rope, she selects pipe number one; her partner places himself opposite her on the other side of the rope, and she then proceeds to make the largest bubble possible without breaking it. When this is accomplished she wafts it into the air as high as possible toward her partner, who tries by blowing it in the opposite direction

to prevent it from crossing the rope to his side. Should he prevent it from bursting on his side of the rope one point is scored for himself and partner and another turn is allowed. If, however, the bubble crosses over to his side one point is given to the next player, who immediately takes her place at the bowl with her partner opposite. When all have participated, a large bunch of old-fashioned flowers is presented to the young woman who formed the largest bubble, another to the man who won the most points, and another to the one who won the least, and so on.

Refreshments may be served from tables spread out under the trees, upon the branches of which are hung bright lanterns.

A Corn Husking

Late in October when the corn has matured and been stacked in the barn, informal invitations may be sent out to all the neighboring young people to attend a husking bee.

Previous to the evening mentioned the ears of corn are stripped from the stems

and formed into two huge piles upon the barn floor. Lanterns should be hung here and there upon the beams to give the necessary light, and stools provided for the workers. The company, on arrival, is divided equally, one half being assigned to one pile, the other half to pile number two, and the contest begins, each division striving to finish its pile first. The husks must be entirely removed from each ear, and whoever first discloses to view a red ear is considered especially fortunate, as the first red ear shown is supposed to bring good luck to its possessor.

After all the ears have been husked the winner of the red ear is escorted in state to the house, where a warm fire (always an open one, if possible) and a supper are waiting.

Decorate the walls of the room in which the supper is to be served with as much green as can be procured at this season of the year. Procure a dozen pumpkins, remove the pulp, cutting a hole at the top of the shell; cut also four stars in the sides of each pumpkin, cover with light

yellow paper, and place candles inside. These lanterns, being set in various convenient spots about the room, and lighted just before the supper is served, shed a corn-colored glow over the room. Have the table spread with a snowy cloth. In the centre place a tall vase filled with any late autumn yellow flowers, dahlias, chrysanthemums, or marigolds; place a candle at each end of the table screened by yellow crêpe paper shades. The refreshments may consist of egg and lemon butter sandwiches, cornbread, chicken salad, sponge-cake, gold-cake, lemon ice cream, and lemon water ice, cup custards, honey in the comb, lemonade and coffee.

An Apple-Paring Bee

The guests assemble around the blazing open fire. Two large baskets of apples are brought in. A row of dishes is placed upon the hearth in front of the fire, and a short distance above the dishes is stretched a wire, to which apples are to be fastened in a row to roast. Next, knives are distributed, and each one attempts to slide his

or her knife safely round and round an apple taken from the basket without breaking the paring. This being accomplished, each one privately gives to his or her paring the name of a favored one, stands in the middle of the room, takes the paring by one end, twirls it three times around the head from right to left, and drops it over the left shoulder to the floor, repeating:

"I pare this pippin round and round again,
My sweetheart's name to flourish in the plain;
I fling the unbroken paring o'er my head,
My sweetheart's letter on the ground is read."

The paring is supposed immediately to assume the form of the first initial of the favored one's name. Again, an apple seed is cut in halves, each half named and stuck upon the closed eyelids. It is rarely that either one remains on long. If both drop at the same time then it is reasonable to suppose that the experimenter will go unloved to his or her grave. Should one, however, remain longer than the other, that one will prove constant through life. While all this has been going on, the apples grow-

ing tender and juicy before the fire drop one by one into the dishes placed beneath. It is then that pitchers of cream are brought in with small bowls and spoons, and the evening closes with roasted apples and cream.

Old-Time Spelling Match

The fact that a spelling bee is to form a part of an evening's entertainment need not be indicated upon the programme, it being a part of the fun to catch people unawares.

After the arrival of the guests the choice of a "teacher" and two leaders is effected by ballot. The two leaders then stand out at the end of the room opposite each other, and each chooses alternately one of the company at a time, to represent his side, until all have taken their places in two lines.

The teacher, who is supplied with a book, then gives out a word to the person at the end of the line at her right. If the word is correctly spelled, the next word is given out to the person at the end of the opposite side at her left. If this person fails to spell this word correctly she must imme-

diately leave the line, and the same word is put to number two on the opposite side. If the word is correctly spelled she is privileged to choose one person from the opposite line to step over to the foot of her own line. Another word is then given to the opposite opponent, and so on down the lines. It often happens that two equally proficient spellers are pitted against each other for some time, when the contest becomes very exciting.

It is a good plan, lest the contest become wearisome, to limit the time for the last participant. If at the end of six minutes the winner has not failed on any word given, he or she becomes director of the revels that follow, and must be implicitly obeyed for the rest of the evening. The first duty is to announce a "recess," and having been previously instructed, he or she leads the way to an adjoining room, where upon a table, in a pile, lie boxes of various shapes and kinds, neatly tied. These are distributed among the young women, after which it is announced that each box contains a small school luncheon, and that a young

man accompanies each. Then comes a distribution of the young men in the same way that the boxes were distributed, and each young woman shares her luncheon with her partner. Should the box contain an apple, a sandwich, and a cake, these must be halved.

After "recess" follow games, or music, or recitations, as the winner of the contest wills.

A Jolly Mother Goose Party

For a Mother Goose Party send out the following invitations:

> Reunion of the Goose Family.
> Mother Goose
> At Home
>
> from eight to eleven o'clock.

With this card may be inclosed another, upon which may be written:

> Please come costumed as one of the goslings, and bring an original verse explaining your mishaps.

As, for example, Old Mother Hubbard might write: —

"I 'd been giving a tea —
All the ladies were there:
And that must explain
Why my cupboard was bare."

Or the "Old Man Dressed all in Leather" might ask: —

"Why do I dress in leather?
The reason I 'll unfold:
One day I dressed in cassimere
And caught a dreadful cold."

Secure a large pan such as bread is mixed in, and cover it with a large sheet of light brown wrapping-paper. Cut the paper an inch and a half larger than the pan, cut a hole in the middle large enough to admit a man's hand, and secure the paper around the outside edges of the pan with mucilage.

This "Jack Horner" pie graces the head of the table later.

The servant who admits the guests receives from them the envelope containing their verses, and places them, still sealed, in the pie.

Mother Goose may stand conveniently near the entrance to the drawing-room, and should greet the guests by name if possible.

During the evening a slip of paper is handed to each guest with the name of one of the Mother Goose characters upon it. The hostess retains a list of these, and calls each, in turn, to repeat within the space of one minute the familiar verse relative to this character. Failing to do this, a forfeit must be paid. The one who is most prompt in responding correctly may receive as a pledge a goose-quill pen, and the one who fails, a copy of "Mother Goose." Just before refreshments are served the "Goose Drill" may be participated in to the time of a march, and the couples proceed to the refreshment-room, where they are served to: —

(1) Shared by the Walrus and Carpenter.
(2) A King's dish.
(3) A Queen's lunch.
(4) Taffy's spoils.
(5) The golden eggs.
(6) Fragments from the "old woman's broom."

(7) What the baker made.
(8) Sample of the Pieman's ware.
(9) Jack-a-dandy's delight.
(10) What the ships brought.

The numbered list of refreshments may be printed upon small cards, which may be retained as souvenirs of the occasion. The guests order what they choose. The key, which is retained by the hostess, is as follows: —

No. 1 — Oysters.
No. 2 — Bird pie.
No. 3 — Bread and honey.
No. 4 — Beef sandwiches.
No. 5 — Egg sandwiches.
No. 6 — Cheese-straws.
No. 7 — Rolls.
No. 8 — Washington cake-pie.
No. 9 — Plum cake.
No. 10 — Apples and comfits.

After refreshments have been partaken of, each guest in turn reaches into the depths of the "Jack-Horner" pie and removes a plum — one of the sealed envelopes — and reads aloud the verses contained therein.

HALLOWEEN ROMPS AND FROLICS

HALLOWEEN ROMPS AND FROLICS

What Hallow's Eve, or Halloween, as it is popularly called, means, or how it came by its extravagant and fantastic customs, is unknown. It is the vigil of Hallowmas or All Saints' Day, yet it has no Christian meaning, but, on the contrary, is essentially paganistic. Authorities agree in placing it under pagan festivals, and absolutely separate it from any Christian anniversary. The most ancient of Halloween customs was the building of a huge bonfire by each household; on that night spirits were supposed to walk the earth, strange dreams foretold prosperity or adversity, lovers were tested by various charms, future marriages were arranged, and the wilder the superstition the more current its belief.

In modern times Halloween has always been enjoyable because of the popular superstitions attaching to it as a night when any supernatural story might be believed, any charm tested, any frolic permitted, — a night when imagination might run riot, and any ceremony, however extravagant, be indulged in.

We are all of us the better for an occasional frolic, and Halloween, with its quaint customs and mystic tricks, affords opportunity for much innocent merriment.

Arrangements for a Party

When one has decided on a Halloween frolic, and the invitations have been arranged and sent, many problems confront the hostess, each requiring more thought than the ordinary party.

The matter requiring most thought is, perhaps, the decoration of the rooms. The Halloween arrangements which are too elaborate miss their point. An ideal place in which to hold such a party is the large, old-fashioned country barn, with the sweet-smelling mows above, and the soft light of

many lanterns hung from the rafters. With the barn party, however, the almost indispensable wood fire must, of necessity, be outside. In the majority of cases the party should meet in the house, within a few rooms, and the old-fashioned pumpkin or squash be the chief dependence.

Let all the light that is used, either in doors or out, come from pumpkin lanterns. The smaller ones, hollowed out and with grotesque faces cut in the rind, should be fastened with wire around ordinary gas-burners, while one huge pumpkin, with a lamp looking out from the grinning face, and apples, nuts, and oranges piled around it, will make a sufficiently striking centre-piece for the supper-table. To add weirdness and quaintness to the Jack-o'-lanterns, when the pulp has been removed and a large incision made for the face, stretch over the opening a grim mask of colored paper, with nose, eyes, and mouth cut as you would in a pumpkin, and glue it fast over the incision. Use a different color for each pumpkin. These many colored faces are more effective in a dark room than the

ordinary Jack-o'-lantern. Candles placed inside should not be lighted until the guests arrive.

For the rest, bunches of wheat or grasses over pictures and in vases, ears of ripened corn, and festoons of brilliant cranberries strung upon a thread, will give a suggestion of the country to the scene. Wherever possible, have a roaring, crackling, open fire.

How to Entertain the Guests

Any innocent joke, perpetrated in a spirit of friendly mischief, will befit the night. The idea of the olden time centred around the pairing of lad and lass; hence the chestnuts were put before the fire to test the future of those whose names they bore, — if they burned steadily, the courtship would go well; if they popped apart, the course of true love would not run smooth. Hand-glasses, with apples beside them, should be placed here and there, so that the modern Eve may eat her apple and wait for Adam to peep over her shoulder.

Greater pleasure, however, will be found in the games which all may play. The

tub of water with floating apples which must be lifted out by the teeth alone, and the fork suspended from the ceiling, with its lighted candle at one end and the apple from which a bite is to be taken at the other, will cause much merriment. The search for the ring in flour is also much enjoyed. The flour containing a ring is packed upon a large platter. The guests each cut off a slice with a knife, and the one uncovering the ring must pick it up with his teeth.

Lead, melted in large iron spoons, may be dropped in water, and fortunes told from the shapes which it assumes.

Great amusement may be had by placing two hickory-nuts, about three inches apart, on the hearth in front of an open fire. One is supposed to represent the girl who places it there, and the other, her as yet undeclared but mentally chosen lover. Should the nuts burn brightly, a happy marriage will result. Should the nut named after the man jump toward the nut named after the girl, she may expect a proposal before the next new moon.

Hunting for the Hidden Wedding-Ring

Hunting for the wedding-ring is another test which creates great sport. A ring, a thimble, and a nickel should be hid somewhere in the room; to the one who finds the ring his or her marriage is assured; the thimble, he or she will live a life of single blessedness; the nickel promises wealth.

The weal or woe test is made by trying to toss an apple through a horseshoe which is suspended in a doorway at a convenient height. Each fortune-seeker tries to throw an apple through the shoe; if successful, happiness is his or hers.

The old tricks of swinging a wedding-ring over a goblet and slowly repeating the alphabet — the letter which is said as the ring touches the glass being the initial of the future husband's or sweetheart's name, — walking around the house at midnight, and going downstairs backward to meet one's fate, are familiar to all. If lover or sweetheart does not appear at the foot of the steps, or round the corner of the house, then drink salt water before retiring, and

lover or sweetheart will appear in your dreams, according to tradition, with a cup of cold water; should you awake before you drink,

"Lover is fled!
And you 'll never wed."

Divining by the Cake with Candles

Much sport may be had at supper-time by having a large cake in the centre of the table with as many candles around it as there are guests, each candle a different color. The cake is passed last. The guests each take a candle and a piece of cake, choosing whatever color pleases their fancy. As they do so some one reads:

He who takes the candle blue,
Will find his sweetheart ever true.

The pink, the sweetest of them all,
Will wed a fellow six feet tall.

Alas, for yellow, bright to see,
Your lover e'er will jealous be.

Happy she who orange takes;
Now begin your wedding cakes.

Hopeless, homeless bachelor he,
If white candle his should be.

The hostess may evolve some other pleasant and clever couplets to finish the list. The candles come in play later, when each tries his or her fate. All candles lighted, each holds his at arm's length, and blows three times; should the candle go out the first time, he will be married that year; if the second, in two years; if the third, in three years.

Supper may be served between the games and fate-charms, or afterward, and may consist of salads, sandwiches, biscuits, olives, cakes, nuts, apples, and coffee.

Invitations for a Brownie Party

For children from seven to ten years a new and helpful turn to Halloween may be given by sending out the following invitation on Brownie note paper:

> The Brownie Clan
> Will met at the home of ———
> on Halloween
> October thirty-first, from seven o'clock till nine
> *Your presence is requested.*

On the opposite page place the following verses, with the request that they be memorized before the party: —

BROWNIE SONG

We all are Brownies, every one,
 We have a hidden wand,
And twining round it are the words:
 "We love to lend a hand."

CHORUS

A helping hand is all we have;
 And that we gladly give,
Hurrah! hurrah! for Brownies all
 Wherever they may live.

We Brownies dearly love a joke,
 We are a merry band,
But most of all and best of all,
 We love to lend a hand!

CHORUS

MYSTERIOUS WORK OF THE BROWNIES

WITH a suggestion or two from the older folk the children will speedily catch the spirit of the occasion. While impatiently waiting for the evening in question, the mysterious work of a Brownie hand

will be manifest. The lessons will be learned before the usual time, unasked errands will be run, the baby will be kept entertained, and the once disordered room will be found tidy. On entering the Brownie precincts on October 31, the children are mysteriously led, the boys into one room, the girls into another, whence they emerge in Brownie costume, — pointed caps of brown felt with a tassel dropping to one side, and moccasins of the felt, with long, pointed toes. These slippers may be put on over the shoes, and so will deaden the footfalls, as well as make the figure picturesque. If more elaborate costuming is desired, the drawings of Mr. Palmer Cox may be used as models, and the familiar Dude, Chinaman, Indian, and Policeman figure in the revels.

Brownies Ready for Fun

In the centre of the room into which the children go for refreshments may be a huge pumpkin, hollowed out and filled with bundles of all sizes and shapes. As the children stand in charmed curiosity the

hostess explains that these are Brownie gifts for a needy family in the neighborhood, and then proposes that the band carry and leave them at the door, and that, before they go, they sing the song on their invitations. A circle is formed, and the children dance and sing the Brownie song: "We all are Brownies, every one," etc., to some familiar tune, then bundles will be grasped in eager hands, and the Brownie band will steal forth. A mysterious walk, much hushed laughter, a loud knock at the door, and a hurried scamper — and the Brownies are again at headquarters, ready for fun and frolic. Many of the jokes and games suggested are appropriate for children, and may be carried through with zest until it is time for the band to disperse. As the Brownies lay aside their caps and take up their more usual headgear, inside each may be hidden a small present — a Brownie penwiper, a box of pencils, or any one of the trifles dear to childish hearts — to carry home as mementos of an evening which will always be proof to them that there may be not only fun and frolic, but

thoughtfulness for others, in Halloween parties.

A Fairy Folk Frolic

For another sort of revel transform a room into a fairy grotto, thus: Cover the side walls with green cambric, — not too dark nor too smoothly placed. Loop the same in easy festoons to cover the upper wall. Then among these festoons fasten trailing vines and small tree branches. Upon the cambric covering the side walls make rough, free charcoal sketches of rocks, recesses, caverns, and smaller grottoes. Intermingled with and covering the sharper outlines, place with judicious taste small trees, branches, and vines, liberally decorated with spangles, shining pendants, and baubles. Arrange also glittering draperies of fabrics, known as cloth of gold and silver, with silver and gold fringes. Stars, diamond and heart-shaped figures cut from gilt, amber, and silver paper should be added. These decorations may be pinned lightly to the cambric. Place a few lamps with chim-

neys of red, blue, and yellow glass, and, under their soft tinted light the scene is indeed beautiful.

The parlors can be similarly arranged if desired, otherwise the rooms should be cleared, the carpet covered with white cloth, and the general decorations may well consist of bright colored tarletans and flowers. In the centre of the room suspend a bright-colored hoop, to which gay ribbons, not less than three yards long, should be fastened at equidistant points. With these, each claiming a color to match their costume, the children perform the fairy frolic, the changes of which are similar to the May-pole dance, except the final braiding of the May pole. These same ribbons may be used later in the scarf revel, — a beautiful *mêlange* of music, color, and motion.

Fairy costumes for little girls are of tarletan or tulle, liberally ornamented with glittering fringes and spangles. The queen ought to wear a crown and elaborately fashioned dress; the wee godmother a somber costume, brown bonnet, and spectacles.

Arranging a Scotch Halloween

This idea will be particularly appropriate, as Scotland is the home of Halloween. Request that the dressing of the ladies be especially simple, and that each one may wear a white apron, kerchief, and small cap, and that the men appear either in Highland plaid and kilts, or in golf costume with Tam-o'-Shanters. Request, also, that those invited use Scotch words and idioms. If this has been asked on the invitations the guests will have an astonishing number of mystifying words at their tongues' end. In this day of the "Bonnie Brier Bush" there are few intelligent people who may not easily master several phrases. Sing Scotch songs, — some of the more familiar ones being used as a chorus. During refreshments have bagpipes played, if a piper be available, and provide that the pipes may be in a separate room from the guests. Later in the evening draw around the open fire, and have a story

which is essentially Scotch, told by a good story-teller.

Recitations of Scotch poems, and readings from Scotch authors, may also be given, and add to the pleasure and knowledge of the guests. Burns' poem of "Halloween" is especially appropriate, and "Tam o' Shanter" will help to produce the sensation of thrilling excitement, which is the true Halloween spirit. And, of course, the evening must close with all the guests' voices raised in singing "Should auld acquaintance be forgot?"

HELPS IN ARRANGING TABLEAUX

HELPS IN ARRANGING TABLEAUX

Unvarying rules for successful tableaux are as hard to give as unvarying rules for cakes. They both need large dashes of judgment; yet there are some suggestions which should be followed accurately if you desire to devote an evening to this form of entertainment.

What the Manager Needs.

To begin with, to be a successful manager of an affair of this sort, beauty and age must be overlooked entirely, and the eye must be trained to quick recognition of a type, and be able to use such a one intelligently. The promoter of this form of entertainment must steel his heart and gird on the armor of patience, for he will need but little of the former and much of the latter. The work being usually

made more difficult by suggestions, it will require wonderful dexterity on the part of the leader to steer successfully his little company around the shoals of rivalry into the smiling port of content. Of course, the beauty of her set may insist upon posing for the principal rôles; regardless of the fact that her Anglo-Saxon profile does not suit the part in the least, and pretty Mrs. Young Wife, who tips the scales at a hundred and sixty, may shed many tears if not allowed to impersonate Psyche. These are the thorns in the path of the manager, and only one with rare tact can escape their sting.

Arranging the Stage

To get to the actual working details, the first thing to do is to select your room. One that connects by folding doors with the one to serve as auditorium is the best to choose. Let the whole space occupied by the doors be filled in with black gauze stretched across the opening, and the foot and top lights placed behind it. This

arrangement produces the effect of a thin mist, light enough to be easily seen through, and yet softening the rugged outlines and bringing out the points of the picture at the back with a clearness that is wonderful. This gauze is one of the most important features in tableaux, and should no sooner be disregarded than the arrangement of the stage. Of course, it is to be understood that reference is made only to such an entertainment as can be given in either a city drawing-room or the spacious rooms of a country mansion. Very few people, no matter how much they may enjoy theatricals and tableaux, can afford to set apart a room or hall for such purposes, consequently preparations of the sort described below must be made whenever any such festivities are contemplated.

Your stage must, of course, be raised above the audience. It should be not less than fifteen feet in depth, with as much space behind it as can be spared, and ten feet in width. To represent banks or other elevations there must be movable benches or platforms. Frames for the

living pictures must be secured. As all pictures are not the same size, several frames must be arranged. Some may be hired. A simple one can be made by using moulding by the foot, bordered all round by cloth of some subdued tone. Portières may serve as curtains, yet there may be possibly some homes where these hangings are not used; in which case the folding doors must screen the actors from the spectators, and each frame be provided with a separate bit of gauze, instead of the one large piece in the doorway doing duty for all. Once let the stage, the gauze, and the lights be arranged, and the main trouble is over.

When the work of selecting the persons who are to represent these living pictures begins, the manager must look first for that much-needed quality — grace. Grace goes farther than any other attribute to suggest beauty, and it must be kept in mind that it is a work of art which is to be represented, lest mere prettiness deceive by its superficial attractiveness. In every-day life a woman is deemed plain if afflicted

with a poor complexion, but in tableaux this defect does not signify, and should not be considered.

Not Color, but Form

Some faces can assume more than one type by a different arrangement of hair, costume, and light. The death mask of Shakespeare reveals this peculiarity, for in one view we discover the German, in another the French, and in a third the Greek. Some have even said they detected a trace of the African. Be that as it may, many faces are capable of taking on more than one type, and such are the best subjects for tableaux. The color of hair or eyes does not have the bearing on the artistic representation that form does. A dark person may be less suitable for picturing the Southern and Eastern races than many fair-skinned children of a Northern clime. Color is a much more manageable quality in tableaux than form, yet even this can be apparently changed if a little artistic knowledge is brought to bear upon the operation. A gown of

unrelieved black will cause some faces to appear thin, while the same person, in a white gown, owing to the reflected lights which destroy the shadows, will look quite plump.

Strong colors, such as black, dark red, and blue, should be used where the type is fine, lacking a subtlety of modelling, giving the impression of imperfect finish. If the finish is finer than the type, the use of lace, the glint of satin, and the reflection of transparent white give the face the very opposite quality of severe line.

Colors by Lamplight

Great care should be taken in the selection of colors, as many that appear warm and lovely in the daytime are quite the reverse by lamp or gas light. Especially is this true of many purples, that are hideous browns under the glare of the gas. Likewise, some pinks become yellow, some blues green. Be sure, if you choose any one of these colors, that they will appear the same when you wish to use them before the footlights.

Do not forget that size is only a relative matter. To represent height or weight, judicious contrasts serve even a better purpose than actual proportions. A woman not more than five feet high can be made to look very tall if she carries her head well, and no one would think her tiny unless placed beside other and larger women. As the single figure in a picture attired in ruffs and jewels she would appear commanding.

People look taller on the stage than in a room, owing, undoubtedly, to their being on a higher level and appearing larger, as figures seen against the sky always do. Sharp lights and shadows are rare magicians, causing a perfectly proportioned man or woman to appear absolutely attenuated, while an over-stout person becomes just delightfully plump and round.

Elaborate Subjects

Having gone over the mechanical workings of *les tableaux vivants*, the next thing to do is to choose the most beautiful and effective pictures to represent. At Os-

borne, the Queen's residence on the Isle of Wight, among other subjects "The Four Seasons" and "Taking the Veil" were given. The former is somewhat hackneyed, as there never were yet tableaux given by amateurs who did not claim that subject for their own. However, it is a pretty picture, and capable of much originality of thought in the costuming and arrangement. At Osborne the Princess Patricia, youngest daughter of the Duke of Connaught, represented Spring in a thin gauzy gown, with an overturned basket of violets and daffodils in her lap. The youth of the Princess made her the most worthy embodiment of the infant season that could be chosen. One of the ladies-in-waiting impersonated Summer in pink satin profusely adorned with roses, while Princess Beatrice, the Queen's favorite daughter, looked the very embodiment of Autumn in a sheeny gown combining the dead-leaf tones and ruddier hues of frost-touched foliage, elaborately draped and festooned with autumn leaves, a coronet of which she wore on her fair hair.

Winter, in white furs and powdered hair, was represented by another lady-in-waiting.

"Taking the Veil" is another elaborate subject. There must be black-robed nuns, priests, and acolytes. The novice, attired in white, kneels at an altar rail, and the others are grouped effectively about.

Simplicity is Effective

Romantic subjects are legion, and always form pleasing pictures. If you do not care to go to the trouble of arranging elaborate scenes, every-day subjects may be chosen: something simple and heart felt, which will be certain to appeal to the audience. Among these may be mentioned the gypsy fortune-teller holding the palm of a shy young girl, while her lover looks on from the background as if trying to hear if he has anything to do with the future that the old hag is pretending to read from the lines in the little hand. The Italian mother holding her baby up to place flowers on the shrine of the Virgin is another lovely tableau, and the young girl bidding

adieu to a gay young cavalier is a picture full of grace and spirit.

All of these are easy to manage. Of the more elaborate, nothing could be more thoroughly artistic than a series of pictures from the works of Shakespeare. The heroes and heroines of the great bard lend themselves readily to this style of entertainment. For instance, Othello telling of his triumphs and his troubles to Desdemona and her aged father; the aged King Lear and his daughters; the sleep-walking scene, and the witches' incantation from Macbeth; the wooing of Katharine in King Henry V, and a picture of that other Katharine, the shrew, so greatly in contrast to the gentle French princess.

There are hundreds of them ready to be chosen, but none more attractive than the representation of "Ophelia at the Brook." Let the hair of Ophelia be very dark and her face pale; the figure tall, slender, and graceful. A woman with some dramatic talent or a ready intuition of what is required of her should be chosen for this part. The brook can be formed of gauze stretched

over a mirror. Surround it by water plants, vines, ivy, — anything that will give it the appearance of a real brook. All of these can be hired at a florist's if the entertainers are city residents; if not, the woods, even in winter, will furnish sufficient green to answer the purpose. A bough of pine near the foreground can be introduced by tacking it to a screen. Ophelia, in a flowing gown of white, stands gazing into the brook, the right hand uplifted, grasping the bough, while in the left she holds a flower.

Some Other Subjects

A series of tableaux that is peculiarly attractive may be arranged of the various subjects relating to the "Nine Muses," or a composite group could be given under the head of "Progress," showing scene after scene, either simple or elaborate, indicating the strides made in various branches of industry and art from the time that marked their first discovery.

To begin with, America, surrounded by the various peoples of the new world,

could be disclosed, the single figure being that of a young girl draped in stars and stripes with the well-known liberty-cap upon her flowing tresses. While the costumes and setting for every scene may be simple, they should be carried out as gracefully as possible, as detail counts for much in entertainments of this sort.

If the muses are chosen, their single figures or small groups are better than any number of people in one scene. Poetry, Music, Dancing, and Art may be represented with two or three figures if preferred, and the purely classical treatment need not be adhered to so long as the subject is shown in its true light. For instance, Dancing could be just as artistically depicted by young people in costumes of the Orient, or in more civilized garb, instead of the simple hanging folds that draped the Greek goddess.

These pictures need little in the way of properties to make up a delightful *ensemble*. An idea which is both artistic and instructive is to illustrate by living pictures a complete poem or story in prose. In do-

ing this the best in literature becomes a part of those who are called upon to take a place in it, and, though they could not remember the lines ten minutes after they were spoken, the story without words will live long in their memory.

A tableau club could be formed, and once a month during the winter some play of Shakespeare, or one of the dramatic poems of some other standard author, could be represented in a series of tableaux.

Advantages Derived

All copies of good pictures make fine tableaux. Mythology and history, likewise, furnish many subjects; in fact, the choice is unlimited, and though given purely in the spirit of amusement, still lessons are unconsciously taught, for underlying all the fun is a substratum of instruction that leaves its mark. Subjects, costumes, manners, and customs of ancient days, and the best in literature and art, can all be impressed on the mind in this pleasant way. To the timid no entertainment appeals so strongly, for there are no lines to be

earnestly studied and then forgotten in a moment of stage fright, just when you had hoped to distinguish yourself before your friends. All that you need to do is to silently lend yourself and your thoughts to the spirit of the pictures, and your tableaux will be successful.

ETIQUETTE OF EVENING PARTIES

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THERE are no iron-clad rules with regard to party etiquette; yet there are certain usual forms observed in good society about which no one can well afford to be ignorant. These forms are not mere conventionalities. They are, like the accepted rules of a well-ordered home, helps to both entertainer and guest.

When printed invitations are issued to the effect that "Mr. and Mrs. A. —— will receive their friends on Friday evening, December 8, at nine: residence, 12 H Avenue," those who are invited understand perfectly well that full evening dress, flowers, gloves, and carriages are "the proper thing." In case the invitation cannot be accepted, "regrets" must be sent; otherwise a favorable answer is understood.

Such a reception no persons except those named upon the envelope are expected to attend.

Invitations to an "At Home" are usually the ordinary engraved visiting card of the hostess, to which she adds in writing "At Home Friday evening, December 8, from 8 to 10." These, enclosed in dainty white envelopes, are sent out at least one week in advance of the evening named. An "At Home" gives unlimited liberty of dress, ranging from a street costume with bonnet and dark gloves, to full— though quiet — evening toilette. After six o'clock evening dress is the rule for gentlemen. The hostess receives in full toilette, assisted by ladies similarly dressed.

To a party of twenty guests, or fewer, the hostess writes personal notes, which may be sent as late as the day preceding the event, though three or four days earlier assures the guest that he or she has not been taken up at the last moment to fill the place of some one who has declined. "Very Bohemian," advises the person invited that the matter of dress is not

important. To such a party a visiting friend may be taken.

The quality and style of stationery are important items. No refined lady will use that which is either cheap or showy. The best is never too good. That which is plain, with no ornamentation, except, perhaps, a monogram, without gilt edge, yet of finest texture and dainty pattern, is always to be preferred. It costs less than the "latest novelties," which often tempt the taste and purse. But let no delusion of *style* lead a hostess to send out other than pearl, cream, or the delicate mode tints, except when a "color tea," or something out of the conventional line of parties, is attempted.

Who shall be invited is always a question more or less perplexing to hostesses. As a rule it is well to consider whether or not one's guests would be congenial. For a formal reception, or an "At Home," it matters not so much how many kinds of people are brought together. Courtesy to host and hostess requires that for the evening, at least, there shall be cordial exchange of civilities; and there is little danger of dul-

ness, since everybody is sure to find somebody with whom to be social.

Special entertainment is not required for a formal reception. Orchestral music is usually furnished. To arrive; to address the hostess and host; to be presented to new people; to pass through the rooms greeting friends and acquaintances here and there; to test the skill of the caterer, then to make one's adieux, is the leaven of conventional routine at large receptions. Musical and literary members, for the purpose of bringing out some promising young artists, are often introduced. It is always in good taste, and certainly a kindly courtesy, to thank and commend those who have contributed entertainment worthy of praise.

Smaller parties may be entertained with music and readings. The hostess is fortunate if among her invited guests there are amateurs who are willing to assist in this way. Novelty parties, such as "Color Teas," Frost, Harlequin, or Pantomime parties; tableaux, which reproduce pictures familiar to the company; living statuary, in color or white; guessing tableaux or

amateur theatricals, though involving considerable previous preparation, carry the evening's enjoyment along with very little danger of failure.

For children's parties there is no end of pretty novelties. Among them are marches led by some older young people; familiar stories represented by calisthenic exercises; acting verbs; *tableaux vivants* grouped from illustrated copies of such familiar books as "Alice in Wonderland," "Little Lord Fauntleroy," or, even "Mother Goose;" ring games around the favor tree, etc., are all charming diversions.

In a word, the etiquette of evening parties consists in obeying that quick sense of kindliness which always prompts those receiving to do all in their power for the happiness of their guests; and for the guest to divine the time and place and how to assist their host and hostess so to direct the evening that all may spend it happily and in proper fashion.

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS FOR EVENING COMPANIES

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For the unexpected guests the tea or chocolate table must do full duty. Those who entertain a great deal should keep on hand a few boxes of crackers and wafers, a small assortment of potted or devilled meats, olives, caviar, anchovies, and sardines. These being put up in small boxes keep well. Where the means are limited the potted meats, mock *pâté de foie gras* and dainty conserved sweets may be prepared at home at a nominal cost. The art of seasoning counts more in such dishes than the money spent.

Among the best and most sightly wafers to serve with tea are butter thins, Roquefort biscuits, five o'clock teas, outing biscuits, and fairy wafers. The latter come in three colors, — chocolate (brown), vanilla (white), and rose (pink).

The spiced or molasses wafers, fairy cakes, and raglets seem most appropriate to serve with chocolate or cocoa. When means and convenience will allow, these may be purchased, but they may be made at home. If thoroughly baked they will keep for an indefinite time.

Preliminary Preparations for Serving.

When there is but one, or, perhaps, no servant, arrange the table immediately after the evening meal. Decorate it with flowers or fruit, whichever is most available. Flowers are, of course, to be preferred. The plates required may be piled with a folded napkin between each, and placed at one end of the table. At the other end arrange the tea service. Dishes of bonbons, almonds, and olives may be at once placed. If the ices are to be served in the dining-room, place the service on the sideboard or side table. Place the knives, forks, spoons, and glasses in groups.

The sandwiches may be made and placed between damp napkins in a tin or other box. The salads may be all ready to put

together. Aspic forms may be turned out on lettuce leaves and placed in the cold. The wafers and cakes may also be arranged ready for serving.

Where there is not a five o'clock tea-kettle, fill the one in the kitchen with cold water and place it to slowly heat. At the moment it is wanted a little greater heat will at once bring the water to the boiling point, and then the tea, coffee, and chocolate may be quickly prepared.

Five Simple Menus for Small Parties

Thin Bread and Butter
Chicken Salad Coffee
Ice Cream and Sponge Cake

Chicken Sandwiches Coffee
Tomato Aspic on Lettuce with Mayonnaise
Ices Fancy Cakes

Caviar Sandwiches Olives
Tongue in Aspic Bread and Butter
Coffee
Charlotte with Lady-Fingers

Boston Brown-Bread and Butter	
Oyster Salad	Coffee
Lemon Jelly	Sunshine Cake

Chicken and Nut Salad	
Crescents	Coffee
Neapolitan Ice Cream	Fairy Wafers

For occasions where the number of guests and the formality of the occasion demand an elaborate arrangement of the table, a little greater variety may be served. The present fashion, however, tends to great simplicity in serving refreshments which follow closely the dinner hour.

Chicken in aspic on lettuce leaves with mayonnaise dressing, and tongue, braised and garnished with aspic and olives, are both sightly and appetizing. Boned chickens or boned birds may be sliced, and served with bread and butter and a celery salad. One hot dish, such as an oyster fricassee, creamed sweetbreads, lobster *à la* Newberg, creamed chicken, or lobster *à la* Bordelaise, or terrapin, may precede the salad, making, with a sweet, three

courses. Serve these hot dishes on separate plates, in shells or paper cases. The salad may be served on the same plate at the same time.

With any of these dishes thin white or brown bread and butter, rasped rolls, plain bread, rolls, biscuit, or sandwiches of any sort, should be served.

Moulded Lobster in Aspic

Cover half a box of gelatine with half a cup of cold water and allow it to soak for half an hour. Put into a saucepan a sliced small carrot, a slice of onion, a few celery tops, a bay leaf, and one pint of cold water. Bring slowly to a boil; add a teaspoonful of beef extract, a half teaspoonful of salt, a dash of cayenne, the juice of half a lemon, and the gelatine. Mix and strain. Put a layer of this in small moulds or egg-cups. When hard, fill with bits of boiled lobster. Pour over sufficient of the aspic to cover. Stand aside on the ice for several hours. Serve on lettuce leaves with mayonnaise dressing.

Tomato Aspic and Egyptian Salad

For twelve people one can of tomatoes will be required. Strain, and put them in a saucepan with one slice of onion, two bay leaves, a few celery tops, a teaspoonful of salt, half a teaspoonful of paprika or a dash of cayenne. Bring to boiling-point and add three-quarters of a box of gelatine, which has been soaked in half a cup of cold water for half an hour. Mix until dissolved; add the juice of half a lemon and strain again. Pour into egg-cups or small fancy moulds. Stand aside on ice for four or five hours. When it is time to serve them, dip each mould quickly into boiling water, and turn its contents out on a lettuce leaf. Serve as you would a whole tomato with mayonnaise dressing.

To make an Egyptian salad, boil until tender one three-pound chicken. When cold remove the meat from the bones (rejecting the skin) and cut it into half-inch cubes. Wash a pair of sweetbreads in cold water, put them in boiling water; add two bay leaves, one slice of onion, and

four cloves. Boil slowly for half an hour. When cold pick into pieces, rejecting the membrane. Mix with the chicken, then add a quarter of a pound of almonds that have been blanched, and slightly browned in the oven, half a pint of pine nuts, washed and slightly browned. At serving time mix with these a quart of celery cut into small pieces, two teaspoonfuls of salt, half a teaspoonful of paprika or white pepper, half a teaspoonful of curry powder and the juice of two lemons. Mix thoroughly with a pint of mayonnaise dressing and serve on lettuce leaves.

Walnut Sandwiches to Serve with Salad

Shell half a pound of English walnuts. Put the kernels into a pint of boiling water; boil for a minute. Drain, and cover with stock; add a bay leaf, a few celery tops, and a slice of onion; cook gently for twenty minutes; drain and skim; chop fine; add half a teaspoonful of salt and a dash of cayenne. Spread between thin slices of buttered bread and

cut in any shape preferred. Serve these with terrapin, lobster *à la* Newberg, duck salad or mock terrapin, which, by the way, makes a very satisfactory and inexpensive hot dish for an evening party supper.

Mock Terrapin

This makes an inexpensive and very appetizing dish for an evening supper. For twelve persons a pair of ducks and one pound of calf's liver will be required. Clean the ducks, wash the liver, and place them together in a kettle; add two cloves of garlic, one small onion, two stalks of celery, four cloves; cover with boiling water and cook slowly until tender. Take out to cool. When cold cut both into dice. At serving time mash the hard-boiled yolks of six eggs to a smooth paste, adding gradually half a pint of thick cream. Put a quarter of a pound of butter into a saucepan; add a tablespoonful of flour; mix, and add the cream and eggs. Stir constantly until it reaches the boiling point; add half a cup of milk, bring again to a boil; add meat, a teaspoonful of salt,

a dash of cayenne, a little white pepper, and just a suspicion of mace. Serve hot.

Celery Rolls Served with Chicken

These may be served alone or as an accompaniment to boned or sliced cold chicken or turkey. Select one dozen small rolls, cut from the top a round piece the size of a silver dollar, and scoop out the soft part. When ready to serve, fill with the following mixture: Chop very fine sufficient celery to make a pint and a half. Dust over it a teaspoonful of salt, a saltspoonful of pepper, a tablespoonful of grated onion, two tablespoonfuls of tomato ketchup, a teaspoonful of Worcestershire sauce, four tablespoonfuls of olive oil, and one teaspoonful of lemon juice. The filling may be varied by mixing the seasoned celery with mayonnaise.

Sandwiches of All Sorts and Shapes.

The appropriate winter sandwiches are chicken, tongue, ham, beef, mutton, duck, celery, caviar, anchovy, and Indian.

Sweet sandwiches are sometimes served, instead of wafers or bread and butter, with tea or cocoa. They are made from conserved fruits, such as cherries, pineapple, gages, citron, sultanas, figs, dates, and angelicas. The fruits may be used separately or mixed, care being taken to use such as blend in flavors. For instance, cherries, pineapple, and gages, or cherries and figs, angelicas and cherries.

Fruit sandwiches are, as a rule, made from bread, and cut either into small rounds the size of a silver dollar, small crescents, or strips which are called fruit fingers. The crescents may be cut with a round cutter and then cut in half. If the slices are small it is more economical to serve the rounds and crescents at the same time, as the latter suggest themselves by the edges of the first. The fruits must be chopped fine, and slightly moistened with orange juice or a little syrup, and spread in a thin layer on the bread or crackers. Do not cover with a second slice. Nut sandwiches are best served with meat salads; walnuts, pine nuts, or almonds being

best with chicken or turkey, and walnut sandwiches alone with duck salad.

Chicken Sandwiches and Tongue Fingers.

Chop cold, cooked chicken very fine. Pound until smooth, adding gradually enough thick sweet cream to make a paste. To each pint add a teaspoonful of salt, a dash of pepper, a teaspoonful of onion, and a tablespoonful of lemon juice. This may be made in the early part of the day, and placed in the cold, and later spread on rounds or squares of bread.

Tongue fingers are made by chopping half a pound of cold, cooked salt tongue very fine. Rub to a paste, adding two tablespoonfuls of olive oil and two of lemon juice, a dash of cayenne, and a few drops of onion juice. Cut the end crust from a square loaf of bread, butter the top and cut off a thin slice. Trim off the crusts, and then cut a second slice. Spread on one a layer of the tongue mixture; put over it the other slice; press them together lightly,

and then with a sharp knife cut into strips one inch wide.

Touraine Sweets and Chocolates

Cut slices of whole wheat bread into rounds about three inches in diameter. Chop a quarter of a pound of conserved pineapple fine; boil together for a moment four tablespoonfuls of sugar and three of water. When cool add the juice of half an orange, and then mix it with the pineapple. Butter the bread, and then cover over with the fruit. Press it down. Cut angelicas into rings, halve them, and press around the edges of the bread, forming a scallop border. Put a conserved cherry in the centre, and dish on a handsome round cut-glass or china plate.

Touraine chocolates are also made from whole wheat bread. Butter the loaf, cut off the slice, and then cut it into strips an inch wide and the length of the slice. Cover each strip with melted sweet chocolate; dust over at once chopped almonds, walnuts, or pistachio nuts. Stand aside for an hour or so to harden.

Fairy Wafers and Sweet Raglets

Beat half a pound of butter to a cream, adding gradually half a pound of granulated sugar. Dissolve half a teaspoonful of baking soda in two tablespoonfuls of warm water, and add it to the sugar; then add one tablespoonful of ginger, half a pint of milk; mix, and work in gradually one quart of sifted pastry flour. Spread the mixture in a very thin layer on baking sheets which have been lightly greased, and bake in a moderate oven. Cut into squares and roll while hot, or they may be cut into small strips.

Raglets must be made and used the same day. Put two ounces of butter in half a pint of water over the fire. When boiling, stir in hastily half a pint of pastry flour; beat until smooth. Take from the fire, and when cool break into the mixture one egg; beat a moment, add a second egg, and so continue until four eggs have been used. Beat thoroughly; fill the mixture into a pastry bag; press it in curious shapes into hot fat, a little at a time. When suffi-

ciently brown, roll the raglets in powdered sugar and cinnamon.

Fancy Sandwiches of All Kinds.

Fancy sandwiches of all kinds may be served with coffee. Thin bread and butter, both white and brown, may also be served. Salads, such as shrimp, lobster, chicken, celery, tomato, or Egyptian, served with thin bread and butter and coffee, are always in order. A lemon, orange, or fruit jelly with sponge or sunshine cake may form the sweet.

One thing the hostess should bear in mind when serving refreshments, and that is that thin bread and butter or plain cake, nicely served with a cup of good chocolate or coffee, is better than a great variety of dishes poorly prepared and served.

